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Think before you send

Recent court ruling demonstrates e-mails can be defamatory, costly

A recent out-of-court settlement provides a cautionary tale for anyone who has ever sent an e-mail saying malicious things about someone, especially if untrue.

The case, which was resolved before it went to trial in May, also underscores that under Ontario law, a statement sent electronically can be defamatory — not to mention costly and embarrassing — even when transmitted to just one inbox. In this instance, the recipient forwarded the defamatory e-mail to two others, including the man at whom the "malicious gossip" was directed.

"Even though it only goes to one person, when you send an e-mail to somebody, you never know who's actually going to see it," Toronto lawyer Michael Simaan said yesterday. He represented Rick Sullivan, who wrote and sent the e-mail.

"When you send an e-mail to somebody, you never know who's actually going to see it." Toronto lawyer Michael Simaan

In the settlement, Sullivan agreed to pay Ronald Harrington $5,000 plus costs. The original statement of claim sought $50,000 damages.

Late last month, Superior Court Justice Robert Reilly, who was to be the Kitchener trial judge, ordered Sullivan to pay Harrington another $2,800 to cover disbursements. In his written ruling on costs, Reilly summarized the "undisputed facts" in the case.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TIFF inside

Paul Gross accepts the pressure

School pg 19

Eco-friendly supplies

Homes pg 23
Shiny new look for fall

Food pg 32
Sweet treats for children

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Palin fights back

In the most important speech of her life, Republican vice-presidential nominee Sarah Palin fired back last night against the media and the "Washington elite" for raising questions about her personal and political background.

"I've learned quickly these past few days that if you're not a member in good standing of the Washington elite, then some in the media consider a candidate unqualified for that reason alone," Palin said in excerpts of her speech to the Republican convention, released in advance.

"But here's a little news flash for all those reporters and commentators: I'm not going to Washington to seek their good opinion. I'm going to Washington to serve the people of this country."

Most Americans had never heard of her a week ago, but Palin was taking centre stage at the party's convention in the hopes of earning their trust.

The 44-year-old Alaskan governor played up her small-town roots and her experience as mayor of Wasilla, a town of 6,700 people.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RON EDMONDS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin pumps her fist during her speech last night at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn.

Soldiers slain in ambush

Three young Canadian soldiers killed yesterday in southern Afghanistan had just about finished their tour and were preparing to head home when they became embroiled in a deadly ambush, military officials said yesterday.

Cpl. Andrew Grenon

Pte. Chad Horn

Cpl. Mike Seggie

Cpl. Andrew Grenon, Cpl. Mike Seggie and Pte. Chad Horn, all members of 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry based in Shilo, Man., died in the insurgent attack on their armoured vehicle in the volatile Zhari district.

"It was not an improvised explosive device; it was a direct attack," said Brig.-Gen. Denis Thompson, the Canadian task force commander in Afghanistan.

Five other soldiers were wounded in the attack. One remains in critical condition, another in serious condition.

The latest deaths bring to 96 the number of Canadian soldiers killed since Canada's mission to Afghanistan began in 2002.

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Man surrenders after drugs, guns seized
A man faces eight charges after police seized crack cocaine, cash and a loaded handgun from a home in the city's southeast end last week. Nixon Nirmaledran, 19, of Toronto turned himself in to police Tuesday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

New billboard bylaw sought

Toronto wants to draft a uniform bylaw for signs and billboards and is considering a tax on the latter to help cover enforcement. Starting next week, city officials will hold public meetings in Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough and at Toronto City Hall to get input on what should be in the harmonized bylaw.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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What's online today.

Watch a report on Canada's latest casualties in Afghanistan
Listen to DJ Samantha Ronson dish about her feud with Perez Hilton and her relationship with Lindsay Lohan

Lotteries

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Ontario 49	7, 22, 24, 29, 39 & 42. Bonus 11
Ontario Pick 3	2 7 1
Ontario Pick 4	4 8 7 4
Encore	8072820
Daily Keno	2, 9, 16, 20, 28, 30, 33, 37, 38, 39, 41, 45, 49, 50, 62, 63, 67, 68, 69, 70.

These results are not official.

City plans in conflict

It is a competing vision of how to solve Toronto's growing gridlock crisis.

A draft proposal of the Metrolinx regional transportation plan shows a juiced-up version of the planned light rail line across Eglinton, the conversion of the Sheppard subway to light rail and another U-shaped subway that includes Queen Street.

If the plans went ahead, the three east-west endeavours could derail significant pieces of the TTC's highly touted Transit City plan to build $10 million worth of light rail lines all the way to Toronto's borders.

They're also among a few surprises contained in a preliminary draft of the regional transportation plan by Metrolinx, which has repeatedly promised a bold approach to attacking road congestion in the Toronto area.

Metrolinx chair Rob MacIsaac stressed yesterday that the versions already circulating among Metrolinx board members and transportation insiders aren't the one that will be released to the public at the end of the month. But he expects many of the ideas will be the same.

The plans include campaigns to devote more road space to transit, expand GO service around the region to two-way service every 15 minutes and build a high-speed rail link between Pearson and Union Station.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Metrolinx

- Metrolinx, formerly the Greater Toronto Transportation Authority, was created by the province in 2006. Its 11-member board, which includes Mayor David Miller, has been mandated to develop a regional transportation plan.

News in brief

COURT Former police officer Perry Dunlop, whose allegations of a pedophile ring sparked an investigation in Cornwall, Ont., was sentenced to 30 more days in prison yesterday for criminal contempt over his defiance of a court order to testify at a public inquiry. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Maze Craze **Hay little girl**

DAVID BOROTO/TOP NEWS

Alma Wuttke, 8, of Spain, runs through the straw bale maze yesterday during the second annual Maze Craze at Nathan Phillips Square. The event, which included singing chickens and other fun activities, was organized by the Ontario Farm Fresh Marketing Association.

Feds give $5M to fight gangs

With a federal election all but certain, Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day paid a visit to Toronto to hand out nearly $5 million to help fight gang activity here.

The money is part of a pilot project called Toronto's Preventing Youth Gang Activity. The funds are flowing through Prime Minister Stephen Harper's National Crime Prevention Strategy.

Day made the announcement yesterday alongside Toronto Mayor David Miller.

The money will flow to community agencies to provide services such as counselling, addiction treatment, case management and support for families. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Goal

- The goal of the project is to dissuade at-risk youth from being drawn to the gang lifestyle, Miller and Day said.

Slain woman's boyfriend questioned

The boyfriend of a slain woman discovered Tuesday bound and stabbed in her apartment near Bayview and Sheppard avenues spent most of yesterday afternoon being questioned by investigators.

The interview was the second in as many days since police were called to a fourth floor apartment at 75 Talara Dr. around 6:55 p.m. Tuesday.

An autopsy will be performed today and police said yesterday a brother of the deceased is on his way to Toronto from the United States. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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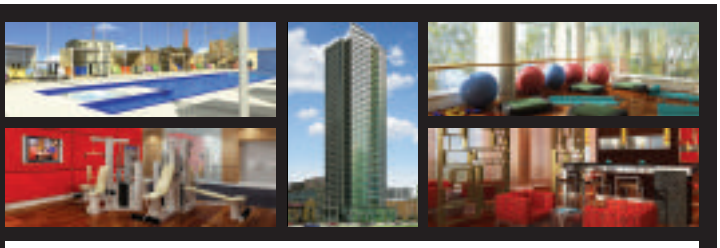

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Four more days to claim bikes

Torontonians have four more days to reclaim more than 2,300 bikes stemming from a massive raid in the city. Police say 537 of the 2,865 recovered stolen bikes have been returned to their owners. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Trash haul at Humber

Next to a gas station off the Kingsway is a dusty path leading to a natural green escape and the banks of the Humber River. For a moment, as you walk down, you forget you're in the city, minutes from the hustle of downtown Toronto.

But nothing can hide the ugliness that often makes it to the surface.

Tires, broken umbrellas, rusted shopping carts, old water coolers, and an outdated 50-inch plasma television are a few of the forgotten items kayakers and hikers find when they walk along the riverbank.

Yesterday, a dozen volunteers spent the morning hauling these out from the east bank of the river in the second annual Humber River cleanup organized by a garbage removal company.

"It's all over the shoreline, stuck in trees, plastic bags are everywhere," said Rick Crawford, president of 1-800-RID-OF-IT, who was out yesterday morning in the lake picking out garbage.

Last year, Crawford and friends pulled out one tonne of garbage from the river. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Routine stop leads to drug stash

NARCOTICS A 22-year-old Hampton woman faces charges after drugs were discovered in a car in Ajax. Early yesterday morning, a Durham Region officer stopped a car for allegedly travelling 95km/h in a 50km/h zone. The officer noticed a small amount of marijuana near the driver. The vehicle was searched and $12,380 worth of marijuana and $6,700 worth of psilocybin (magic mushrooms) were found. Justine Marie Brooks, 23, is charged. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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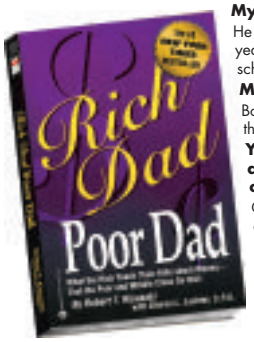

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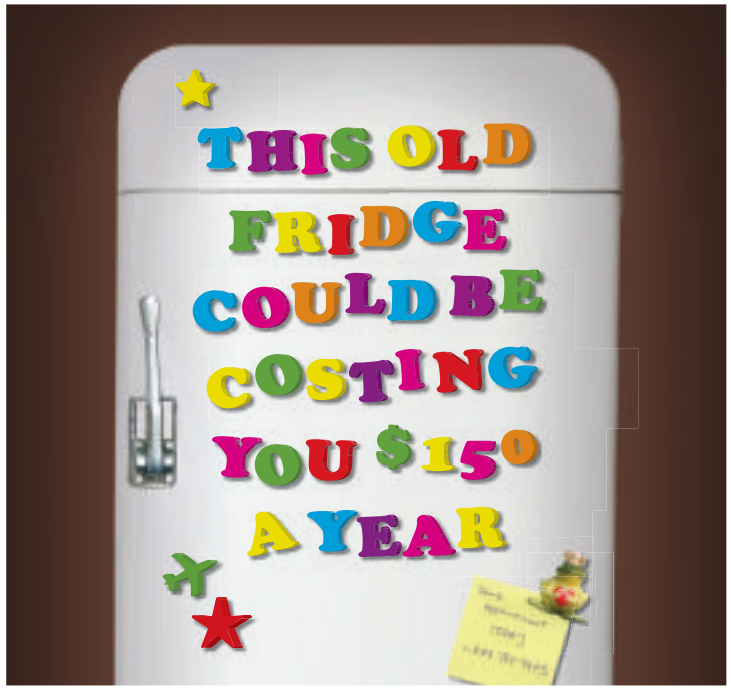

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RCMP closes Arar leak probe

The RCMP has closed its long-running investigation into damaging leaks about Maher Arar — who was falsely accused of terrorist ties — without laying charges, The Canadian Press has learned. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada

Canadians back Obama: Poll

A new poll says Canadians are five times more likely to pick Barack Obama than John McCain when asked who they would support if they could vote in the U.S. presidential election. The Canadian Press Harris/Decima survey released yesterday indicates that 66 per cent of those polled would select Obama, the Democratic candidate. On the other hand, the poll suggests only 13 per cent would vote for McCain, the Republican. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pre-vote sparring begins

Dion's opening salvo links Harper with George W. Bush

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion previewed his election campaign strategy, accusing the Conservatives of betraying Canadians' trust and forcefully linking Prime Minister Stephen Harper to U.S. President George W. Bush.

"Stephen Harper wants to give George W. Bush a third term — in Ottawa," Dion jokingly told his caucus colleagues yesterday in a keynote speech during a summer meeting in Winnipeg.

"Stephen Harper wants to give George W. Bush a third term — in Ottawa."
Stéphane Dion

If not Bush, perhaps Harper wants to revive the Conservatives that ran Ontario in the 1990s, Dion quipped: "Maybe it is to Mike Harris that he wants to give a third mandate in Ottawa."

In a refrain Canadians are likely to hear repeatedly in the weeks ahead, Dion also said Harper's views are closer to Bush's than the current Republican presidential candidate, John McCain.

Dion also refined his far-reaching Green Shift plan, promising to provide $900 million in tax incentives and rebates to help the agriculture, forestry, trucking and fisheries industries invest in cleaner technology to cushion the blow from the higher energy costs the Liberals would bring in.

A typical family of four earning $40,000 per year would save $1,900 in taxes in the fourth year of his Green Shift, the Liberal leader added.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Harper unveils $80M rescue package for closed auto plant

FUNDING Stephen Harper says his $80-million rescue package to help reopen a closed auto plant isn't pre-election pork but left little doubt a campaign is coming.

After meeting with the three opposition leaders in recent days, Harper said yesterday his mind was made up on calling an election.

"I would say that after meeting those leaders I've made my decision and I'll let the country know that decision in the next few days," Harper said.

With economic woes — and Ontario's ailing manufacturing sector — likely to be front and centre in the campaign, Harper made a quick visit to Windsor, hit hard by auto sector job losses, to unveil the investment and defend the Tories' economic record.

In an event that had all the trappings of a campaign stop, Harper pledged federal cash crucial to restarting the Ford Essex engine plant, shook hands with union workers and touted his record over the Liberals. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Greens promise action if not included in debates

The federal Green party threatened legal action yesterday as part of its efforts to get a place at the microphone during major televised debates leading up to the federal election expected to be called for Oct. 14.

"This is pre-emptive, to say, 'If you do not do as you should, then there will be legal consequences.' "
Jim Harris

Former party leader Jim Harris said the Greens won't hesitate to resort to court action if current leader Elizabeth May isn't allowed to participate.

"We're going to allow the broadcasters the chance to do the right thing," Harris said at a news conference.

"This is pre-emptive, to say, 'If you do not do as you should, then there will be legal consequences.'"

If the group of major broadcasters that organize the debates refuse to give May a spot, Harris said the party will file a complaint to the CRTC.

Should the federal broadcast regulator rule against the Green party, a judicial review of the decision will be sought, he said.

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion reiterated his support for May's inclusion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver **Protest in support of dolphins**

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO CANADA

A protester wears a dolphin mask yesterday during a rally outside the Japanese Consulate in Vancouver. Members of Campaigns Against The Cruelty to Animals were drawing attention to the 25,000 dolphins killed every year by Japanese fisherman, who sell the mammals for meat.

News in brief

TEMAGAMI The old-growth forests of northern Ontario's Temagami region may fall victim to widespread clear cutting if an Ontario government plan passes unchecked, say outraged environmental and tourism groups. A draft forestry management plan for the next decade, released yesterday by the Ministry of Natural Resources, could also reduce the buffer zone around canoe routes and historical portage trails that make Temagami a sought-after destination, two environmental groups said.

INVESTIGATION A recent tip has revived an investigation into the 1990 rape and murder of Leah Sousa, 13, near Orillia. OPP received the tip from a source suggesting police might want to search ditches on Highway 11 near Cumberland Beach for the murder weapon.

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Canada to become more involved in regional stability

Defence Minister Peter MacKay promised Canada will become more involved in protecting the stability of the Western Hemisphere at the opening of an international conference of Western Hemisphere defence ministers yesterday in Banff, Alta. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Automakers facing heat

Automakers are being accused of deceiving vehicle buyers into paying a $100-per-vehicle charge on air conditioning, which is presented as a Canadian tax but is really part of the negotiable price.

A class action suit filed in Ontario Superior Court against five automakers — Ford Motor Co. of Canada, Chrysler Canada, Honda Canada, Toyota Canada and Nissan Canada — seeks refunds of the charge to everyone who paid it.

Representatives of Chrysler, Nissan and Toyota said their companies hadn't been served with the suit and had no response. The other companies didn't respond to requests for comment.

Excise tax?

• The lawsuit, not yet tested in court, contends that manufacturers and dealers misrepresent the charge as a retail excise tax that everyone buying or leasing a vehicle is obliged to pay — not part of the price that can be dickered over.

It's unclear how much money would be at stake in the litigation if the Ontario Superior Court agrees to hear it as a class action, but the statement of claim suggests $2.5 billion and seeks $50 million in punitive, exemplary and aggravated damages.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

CRASH Canadian aid worker Richard Ferland, 43, from Levis, Que., remembered for his professional expertise and engaging personality, was among 17 victims of a plane crash in the Democratic Republic of Congo on Monday, a spokeswoman for his employer said yesterday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Foreign Affairs minister will not seek re-election, reports say

OTTAWA Foreign Affairs Minister David Emerson will not be running in the federal election expected to be called later this week, according to several reports.

Though friends and former colleagues in the business community had said earlier Tuesday that Emerson had not made up his mind, late in the day media outlets cited federal sources as saying Emerson will retire from politics.

Emerson spawned a storm of controversy by jumping to the Conservatives days after winning Vancouver Kingsway as a Liberal in the 2006 election.

The move left some supporters feeling jilted, and there was speculation the Conservatives would try to find a safer Vancouver-area riding if Emerson chose to run.

A spokeswoman for Emerson, Anne Howland, said by e-mail she was unaware of any decision.

"As far as I know, the minister has not yet made a decision."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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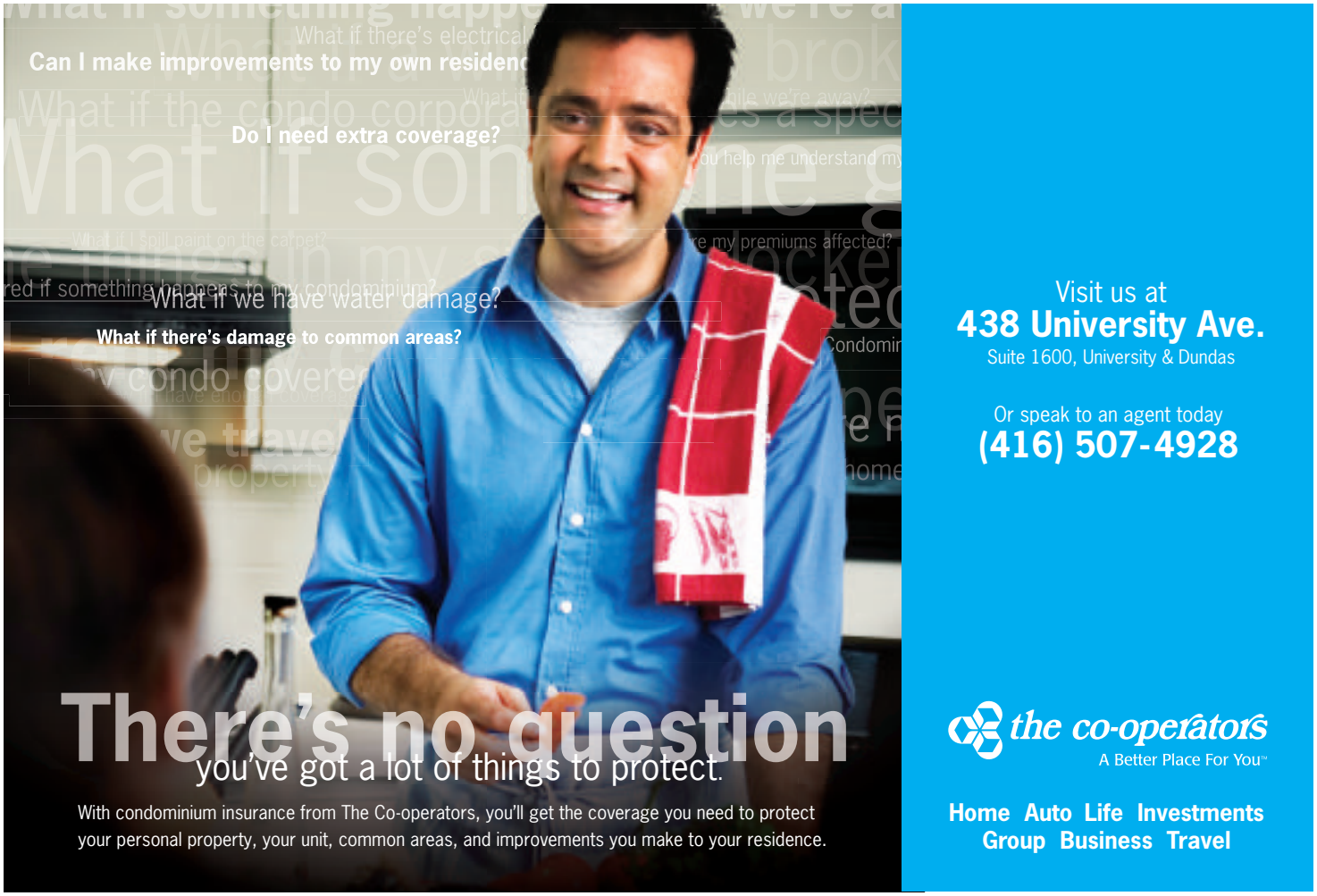
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U.S., Iraqi forces mistakenly fire on each other

U.S. troops on boats in the Tigris River north of Baghdad killed six Iraqis yesterday when the two sides mistakenly fired on each other. Police and security officials said the Iraqis did not realize that the boats, which had their lights off, were American. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Castro laments destruction

Fidel Castro, in a column carried by the government news media yesterday, likened Hurricane Gustav's destruction in Cuba to the aftermath of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, saying it could mean billions of dollars in losses.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sexism charges fly

John McCain's campaign has derided a "faux media scandal designed to destroy the first female Republican nominee" for vice-president and called for an end to questions about its review of Sarah Palin's background.

SUSAN WALSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

John McCain greets Sarah Palin's pregnant daughter, Bristol Palin, and her boyfriend, Levi Johnston, upon his arrival in Minneapolis yesterday to attend the Republican National Convention.

The Arizona senator's camp released a written statement yesterday that stood out for its admission that Palin is under siege and for its attempt to blunt questions about how rigorously McCain and his campaign explored the background of a candidate who may get the nation's second most powerful job.

It also suggested that Palin is a victim of gender bias in the media.

"This nonsense is over," senior campaign adviser Steve Schmidt declared in the statement, lashing out at "the old boys' network" that he says runs media organizations. "The McCain campaign will have no further comment about our long and thorough process," Schmidt said.

Some commentators have suggested Schmidt was trying to rally undecided female voters behind McCain's historic pick and prod conservative Republicans to do what they often do — blame the media.

McCain shook up the presidential race last Friday by picking Palin, a little-known Alaska governor. Since then, a bright spotlight has been trained on the life and record of the self-styled "hockey mom."

Days after Palin made her debut on the national stage, the campaign announced that her unmarried daughter, Bristol Palin, 17, was pregnant.

Other disclosures followed, including that a private lawyer is authorized to spend $95,000 US of state money to defend her against accusations of abuse of power and that Palin sought pork-barrel projects for her state, contrary to her reformist image. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New way to spot breast cancer shows promise

STUDY A radioactive tracer that "lights up" cancer hiding inside dense breasts showed promise in its first big test against mammograms, revealing more tumours and giving fewer false alarms, doctors at the Mayo Clinic reported yesterday.

Molecular breast imaging, or MBI, would not replace mammograms for women at average risk of the disease.

But it might become an additional tool for higher-risk women with lots of dense tissue that makes tumours hard to spot on mammograms, and it could be done at less cost than an MRI. About one-fourth of women 40 and older have dense breasts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heavy civilian casualties in NATO attack: Pakistan

RAID Pakistan's government says there were heavy civilian casualties in a cross-border raid involving U.S.-led or NATO forces on a Pakistani village near the Afghan border.

A statement from the Foreign Ministry described yesterday's early morning raid in the South Waziristan region as a ground attack supported by air assets based in Afghanistan.

It said the attack caused "immense loss of civilian life" and called it a "gross violation" of Pakistani territory.

South Waziristan is considered a militant stronghold. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

NETHERLANDS Dutch officials say the low-lying Netherlands needs a massive new building program to broaden coastal dunes and strengthen dikes against rising seas as a result of global warming.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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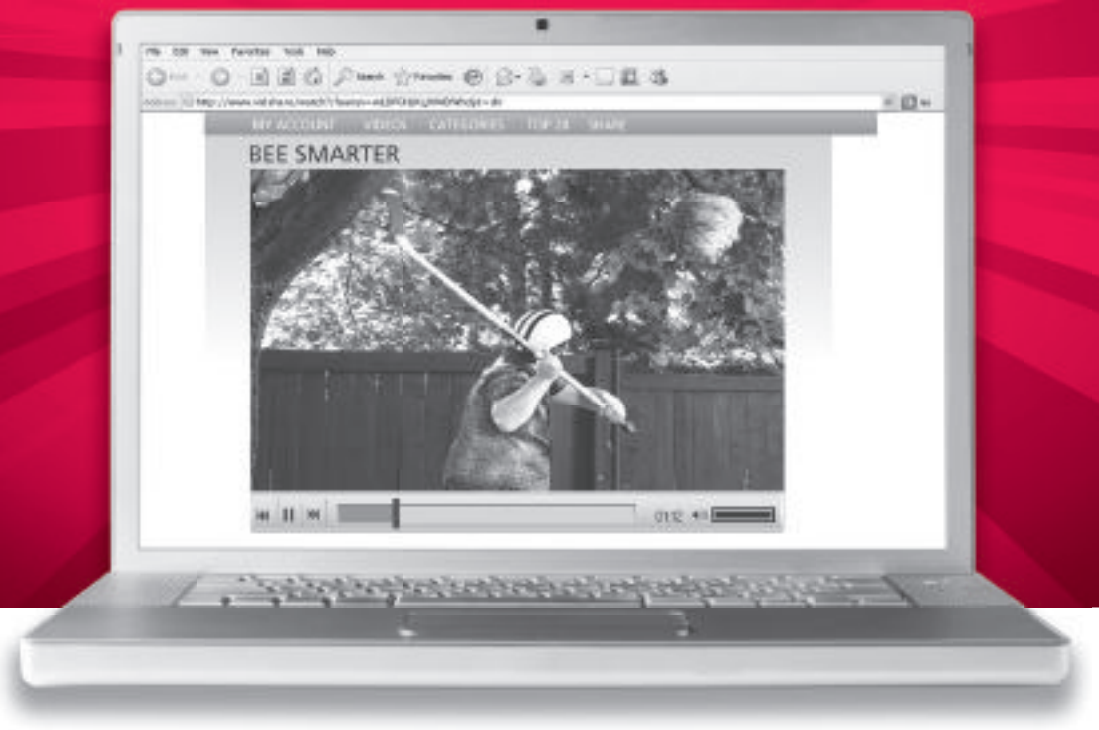

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Settlement reached in six-year-old's death

A Minnesota golf club has agreed to pay $8 million to the family of a six-year-old girl who suffered fatal injuries in the club's swimming pool. The drain's powerful suction ripped out part of the girl's intestinal tract. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turbine arrives safely in Kandahar

Thanks to thousands of Canadian, British and U.S. troops, a massive turbine that will help bring reliable power to Kandahar province arrived at its new home at a dam in neighbouring Helmand province

Some 4,000 troops accompanied the turbine as it travelled about 180 kilometres from Kandahar city to the site of the Kajaki dam project — the largest American aid project in Afghanistan.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Germany **Where's the ground floor?**

SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES

Workers put finishing touches on a tourist attraction called "The World Stands on its Head," built on a Baltic Sea Island in Germany. The upside-down house is complete with upside-down interior furnishings and will open its doors to the public tomorrow.

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$700B defence bill for the U.S.

China may be a growing military giant, but a leading analyst says the United States still dwarfs all other countries in terms of military spending.

Jane's Information Group says U.S. defence spending of just under $700 billion a year is almost nine times that of the next-biggest spender, Britain, which sports a defence budget of $79.27 billion. France is the third-biggest military spender at $65.74 billion.

A report compiled last month for Jane's Industry Quarterly said China currently ranks fourth in defence spending, with a budget of $58 billion in 2008. But Jane's expects that will grow massively to $360 billion by 2020, if current increases continue.

"In Western Europe we're all pretty flat in terms of our spending," said Matt Smith, a defence economics analyst at Jane's. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Growing fast

- The report identifies Russia and India as other fast-growing defence spenders, although Russia is currently ranked eight overall at $36 billion and India 11th at more than $27 billion.

Turkish president to visit Armenia

FOES The Turkish president's office says he will travel to Armenia to watch a soccer match between the countries' national teams.

The move is being seen as a sign of thawing relations between the two historic foes.

Turkey and Armenia have no diplomatic relations because of Turkey's opposition to Armenia's occupation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

COURT Geneva's chief prosecutor has decided to drop the case against Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's son and daughter-in-law for allegedly beating up two of their servants. Daniel Zappelli said yesterday the case against Hannibal Gadhafi and his wife, Aline, will be closed because the former servants withdrew their complaint, leaving him with insufficient grounds to continue. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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TransCanada acquires Wyoming-N.D. gas pipeline developer
TransCanada Corp. is pressing ahead with plans to ship natural gas from the U.S. Rockies to the Midwest through its acquisition of Bison Pipeline and its proposed 465 kilometres pipeline from Wyoming to North Dakota. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Business in brief

XBOX 360 Microsoft Corp. is cutting the price of its Xbox 360 gaming console in the U.S. tomorrow, with the cheapest version selling for $200 US — less expensive than the Nintendo Wii. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

905 homes outpace downtown core

HOUSING An undervalued suburban market is outperforming a downtown core that has already seen substantial price appreciation, according to a report yesterday by ReMax Ontario Atlantic Canada.

Mississauga's Lorne Park showed the largest increase at 13.63 per cent, where a home now costs $679,914. Caledon was second with 13.62 per cent increase to $500,812. Markham was third with a 13.5 per cent hike to $616,025. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lending rate stays same

Decision lifts Canadian dollar

Canada's monetary authorities stood on the sidelines yesterday as jobs disappeared, the economy slowed and federal parties prepared for an election.

Despite strong indications that inflation is a fading threat, Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney and his five deputies held the bank's key overnight lending rate at 3 per cent.

The do-nothing decision spurred currency traders to bid up the dollar — making our exports more expensive to foreigners.

The bank acknowledged Canada's economic growth has been slower than expected, but defended its inaction by arguing that consumer demand and income gains remain strong, while financial conditions are significantly better than in most countries.

Erin Weir of the United Steelworkers noted that much has changed since the last rate announcement in July, including the loss of 95,000 jobs. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rate change

- Even though economists forecast Canada's economy will only grow about 1 per cent this year, weight of opinion is the bank will not cut the overnight lending rate before early in 2009.

Brick settles suit with Beer Store

BOTTLES Jim Brickman, founder of Brick Brewing Co., says he's relieved that his battle with The Beer Store over use of the short-necked "stubby" bottle is over. The agreement allows Brick to continue using non-standard bottles for some of its specialty products while also using the industry standard long-neck brown bottle for its more mainstream brands. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sales of new vehicles tumble

AUTOMOTIVE Despite huge incentives, sales and leases of new vehicles in Canada tumbled 7.2 per cent or 11,400 to 146,978 vehicles last month from the same period last year, manufacturers reported yesterday.

Analysts said the decision by GM and Chrysler to pull back significantly on leasing and a shortage of some fuel-efficient vehicles cut sales significantly. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Business in brief

HALTED First Calgary Petroleums Ltd., whose shares were halted after an unusual 40 per cent spike, said yesterday it has received proposals about a possible sale. Before the halt, shares were up 96 cents to $3.32 with 10.1 million shares changing hands.

PLANT CLOSING Smurfit-Stone Container Corp. said yesterday it would discontinue operations at its Smurfit-MBI cardboard box facility in Whitby, Ont. A total of 106 hourly and 17 salaried employees will be affected by the October end closure. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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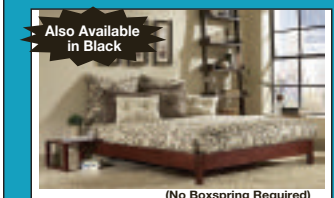

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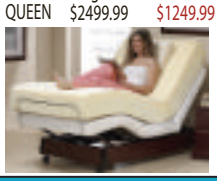

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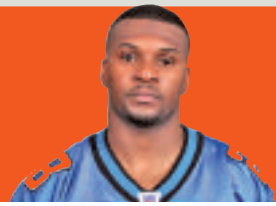
Dorsey, Ray win weekly honours

Toronto Argonaut Dominique Dorsey was named the CFL's special-teams player of the week for the fourth time this season. Edmonton Eskimos quarterback Ricky Ray, left, was a unanimous selection as offensive player of the week. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports



Bell allegedly took wrong bags

Detroit Lions running back Rudi Johnson says his luggage was taken from the team's practice facility by Tatum Bell, left. Johnson was waived by Cincinnati, met with Lions president Matt Millen on Monday and signed a free-agent contact. Johnson said yesterday he was shown surveillance footage Tuesday afternoon that captured the 'theft'. Johnson replaced Bell on Detroit's 53-man roster. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Safina powers into semis

Sixth-seeded Dinara Safina overpowered No. 16 Flavia Pennetta 6-2, 6-3 in the U.S. Open quarter-finals yesterday, earning the right to play one of the Williams sisters next.

Safina, the sister of 2000 U.S. Open men's champion Marat Safin, reached her first semifinal at Flushing Meadows. The Russian has won 37 of her past 41 matches and made it to the finals at six of her previous seven events.

"I'm getting closer to reaching the same thing as my brother," Safina said.

The French Open runner-up and Beijing Olympics silver medallist compiled a 25-13 edge in winners against Pennetta and only was broken once.

"She was playing unbelievable, you know," said Italy's Pennetta. "She didn't give me a lot of chance."

Now comes a much harder assignment for Safina: trying to beat Venus or Serena Williams.

"It's going to be a big match. You know, they're both playing good," Safina said. "I just want to focus again on myself and to give my 100 per cent and see who's going to be stronger."

The siblings, both two-time Open champions, faced each other in the last women's quarter-final late last night, their 17th matchup as professionals.

Safina is 1-3 against Serena and never has faced Venus.

She was asked which sister she would rather meet.

"I don't care," Safina said.

ED BETZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dinara Safina, of Russia, defeated Flavia Pennetta 6-2, 6-3 yesterday to advance to the U.S. Open semifinals.

Yesterday's schedule also included two men's quarter-finals. No. 6 Andy Murray of Britain reached his first Grand Slam semifinal by beating No. 17 Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina 7-6 (2), 7-6 (1), 4-6, 7-5 in a match that lasted nearly four hours and delayed the start of Williams vs. Williams.

Murray, who ended del Potro's 23-match winning streak, clinched a rise to No. 4 in the rankings, matching the highest spot ever for a British man. Neither he nor del Potro played particularly well — each made far more unforced errors than winners — but Murray's biggest complaint was when his request to have the overhead video boards shut off during points was denied.

No. 1 Rafael Nadal was to take on unseeded American Mardy Fish in the late night match.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Red Wings sign Chelios to deal

NHL It appears the Detroit Red Wings will retain the services of defencemen Chris Chelios and Kyle Quincey for next season, TSN.ca is reporting.

According to reports out of Detroit, Chelios has agreed to a one-year deal worth less than last year's $850,000 US contract while Quincey is close to signing a two-year deal. Chelios is expected to sign his new deal next week.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports in brief

NBA After weeks of speculation, Oklahoma City's new NBA franchise revealed yesterday that the team would be called Thunder. A group of children and team members revealed a large team banner as the AC/DC song Thunderstruck was played.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Ravens' Boller out for season

Quarterback Kyle Boller, right, was placed on injured reserve by the Baltimore Ravens yesterday, ending his season and perhaps his stay with the team. Boller hurt his shoulder in Baltimore's second preseason game and has not played since. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blue Jays edge Twins

Blue Jays 5 Twins 4 (11)

The Toronto Blue Jays, playing for third in the American League East and better things in 2009, are making life miserable for the post-season chasing Minnesota Twins.

Capitalizing on a series of rare miscues by the road-weary visitors, the Blue Jays twice erased late deficits after blowing an early lead of their own in a 5-4, 11-inning victory last night.

John McDonald decided the back-and-forth affair with a single off Eddie Guardado (3-4) to score Scott Rolen before a crowd of 21,475.

Rolen, who made a tremendous defensive play on Alexi Casilla's grounder to end the 10th, opened the 11th with a double and moved to third on Travis Snider's single to left. McDonald then drove a ball to deep centre off Boof Bonser to win it.

Jesse Carlson (6-1) pitched the 11th for the victory as the Blue Jays (72-66) won their fourth straight and moved six games over .500 for the first time since the end of the '06 season, despite failing to score with the bases loaded and one out in the 10th. Joe Nathan struck out Curtis Thigpen and got Lyle Overbay to pop out to end that threat.

Still, the Twins (77-62) made three errors in a loss that dropped them a game back of Chicago for top spot in the AL Central. They're now 5-8 on a gruelling 14-game, 15-day road trip and they clearly look ready for some time at home.

The Blue Jays tied things in the ninth when Snider's two-out single off Joe Nathan was booted by right-fielder Jason Pridie, a rookie making his big-league debut who entered as a defensive sub in the eighth, allowing pinch-runner Thigpen to score.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

J.P. MOCZULSKI/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Blue Jays' Travis Snider, left, congratulates Joe Inglett on his two run homer against the Minnesota Twins during the third inning of last night's game.

SCOREBOARD

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

TORONTO 5 Minnesota 4 (11)
Chicago Sox 4 Cleveland 2
Boston 5 Baltimore 4
Texas 1 Seattle 0
L.A. Angels at Detroit
N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay
Oakland at Kansas City, ppd. rain

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Florida 5 Atlanta 3
N.Y. Mets 9 Milwaukee 2
San Francisco 9 Colorado 2
Arizona 4 St. Louis 3
Philadelphia at Washington
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
Houston at Chicago Cubs
San Diego at L.A. Dodgers

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

L.A. Angels at Detroit, 1:05
Oakland at Kansas City, 5:10 (1st gm)
Minnesota at **TORONTO** 7:07
N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay, 7:10
Oakland at Kansas City, 8:40 (2nd gm)

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 12:35
Washington at Atlanta, 7:10
San Diego at Milwaukee, 8:05

CFL

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Montreal	6	3	0	12
TORONTO	4	5	0	8
Hamilton	2	7	0	4
Winnipeg	2	7	0	4

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Saskatchewan	7	2	0	14
Edmonton	6	3	0	12
Calgary	5	4	0	10
B.C.	4	5	0	8

WEEK 11

TOMORROW'S GAME

Calgary at Edmonton, 9

SATURDAY'S GAME

B.C. at Hamilton, 4

SUNDAY'S GAMES

TORONTO at Montreal, 1
Saskatchewan at Winnipeg, 4

SOCCER

GAMES FEATURING TORONTO FC:

SATURDAY'S GAME

CD Chivas USA at **TORONTO**, 4

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Bruins add veteran forward Yelle

The Boston Bruins signed Stephane Yelle, left, a two-time Stanley Cup winner, to a contract yesterday. Yelle spent the past five seasons with the Calgary Flames after playing his first seven years in Colorado. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Joseph the teacher

Justin Pogge pushed off with his left skate and swept to his right, going post-to-post but leaving a bit of the five-hole open.

Curtis Joseph didn't quite like what he saw, tapped him on the shoulder and suggested an adjustment. Then Joseph showed Pogge what he meant.

It was an exchange that lasted about three minutes yesterday as some 25 Leafs and Marlies worked out informally at Lakeshore Lions Arena in advance of the Sept. 19 opening of training camp.

But it was one of those situations that can be invaluable: The veteran Joseph returning to the Leafs as a 41-year-old backup mentoring the 22-year-old Pogge, who continues to carry the mantle of the team's top goaltending prospect.

"It's surreal, that's for sure, getting a chance to work with a guy like that," said Pogge. "He's played some of the biggest games for the Toronto Maple Leafs. He's a great guy on the ice. We're talking about little tricks in the net. He's full of knowledge."

Joseph smiled.

"We just bounced things off each other," Joseph said of the exchange. "Just shop talk, really."

Joseph seems perfectly comfortable playing second fiddle to Vesa Toskala and the Keswick native is happy to be a Leaf again.

"Of course I'm happy to be back here," said Joseph. "They've got a lot of young guys. I'm here to help whoever — whether it's shooters, or something I see, or Justin. It's always nice when you have somebody who's eager to learn or eager to hear a story or two. That's what I'm here for."

Coach Ron Wilson believes Joseph has a role greater than simply being a backup.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Curtis Joseph, seen here at the Leafs informal workout at Lakeshore Lions Arena yesterday, is more than happy to help youngster Justin Pogge develop into a better goalie.

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Back To School

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SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Gear goes green

School supplies reflect public's environmental awareness

DANDELION MUD PIE PHOTO

DANDELION MUD PIE PHOTO

Environmentally-friendly school supplies include everything from Klean Kanteens, left, to bags, notebooks and lunch containers.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

If you're going back to school, don't forget to go green.

With plenty of recycled and all-natural products on store shelves, it's easy to make your trip to the classroom an environmentally sound one.

Wal-Mart Canada spokesperson Felicia Fefer says offering a wide range of green products was a no-brainer for the retailing giant, given Canadians' strong sense of environmental awareness.

"It's one of the most important issues among Canadians today. Parents and children are looking for greener choices," Fefer said.

Backpacks made from recycled plastic pop bottles and bamboo socks highlight just some of the many green options — supplies made partially or wholly with recycled materials — the retailer has committed to offering consumers.

Samantha Hindmarch and Cristina Franco, director of marketing and marketing manager respectively at major school-supplies firm Hilroy, agree that green supplies are more popular than ever this back-to-school season.

"There definitely is a movement going on. People are choosing to buy the recycled option over the non-recycled option," Hindmarch said.

Some of Hilroy's biggest hits this season are three-pronged report covers made from 100 per cent recycled materials, high school notebooks made with 30 per cent post-consumer waste (things like excess packaging, used magazines or junk mail), and paper sheets and primary school sketchbooks made with 50 per cent recycled paper and 30 per cent post-consumer waste.

These Hilroy Grad Recycled Notebooks are available at major retailers for $4.99-$6.99.

Hilroy already had a full line of environmentally conscious school products in the 1990s but had to withdraw them due to a lack of demand. Things are different today.

"Consumers are more aware today — they understand the issues more. You see kids learning about it at school at a very early age," Franco said.

"It might have been just a fad back then but now it's a movement," Hindmarch said.

Franco is adamant, however, that how consumers treat their products is just as much a part of what makes them "green" as buying them in the first place.

"It's not just about buying recycled goods — it's about recycling them later, too," she said.

For those wary of manufactured materials, specialty stores like Dandelion Mud Pie in Toronto offer a broad range of all-natural supplies. Dandelion's owner, Helen Nestor, suggests sticking to lead-free plastics, aluminum-free drink bottles, and all-natural clothing fibres like bamboo, hemp and organic cotton.

"You want to stay away from all those things that are going into your skin, your dorm room, your locker," she said.

Dorm room decor

Canadian design and style expert Karl Lohnes offers the following tips for decorating a dorm or bedroom on a dime:

- **Look locally.** It's always a good idea to purchase large items, like furniture, locally. You don't want to find yourself shipping bulky items across the country. Start by checking out online classified sites that are community-based, like Kijiji.ca.
- **Stick to a budget.** When shopping online, most websites will allow you to set price limitations.
- **Go neutral.** Selecting neutral coloured items is a designer's best-kept secret. Look for basic furniture pieces (like a bed and desk) in neutral colours and save the colour for smaller items like lamps and rugs.
- **Ask questions.** When buying gently used furniture and accessories, always inquire about the condition of the item prior to buying it.

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Bracing for bullies

Strong fall jitters can be a warning sign

VAKIS BOUTSALIS
for Metro Canada

Heading back to school can inspire the usual chorus of complaints from some kids, but if your child is showing unusual pangs of anxiety there is a chance they are worried about a bully.

"What parents can be doing is looking at their kids for signs. If the child has a lot of anxiety over heading back to school, it could be because there was an incident at the end of last year," says Stu Auty, president of the Canadian Safe Schools Network.

Auty stresses the importance of communicating with your child in order to root out the source of their anxiety. If there was a bullying incident during the previous year, Auty suggests parents get together with the teacher as early as possible.

"It's very important for a student to have a smooth transition into the beginning of the school year."

By keeping open lines of communication, parents can monitor any potential incidents without being too intrusive.

"It's a fine balance," says Auty, adding that parents can't control whether incidents occur, but can help smooth the way.

Other signs Auty says to watch out for include an unexpected change of friends or behaviour, and if the child is faking illness to get out of school.

It is also important to remember that modern incidents of bullying are not restricted to the playground. Cyber bullying has become a common occurrence, and Auty says it's up to parents to have an understanding of what's happening.

It's a sentiment that is shared by Faye Mishna, associate dean of research at the University of Toronto's faculty of social work.

"If the child has a lot of anxiety over heading back to school, it could be because there was an incident at the end of last year."
Stu Auty

Mishna says kids often hide incidents of cyber bullying from their parents because they are scared of what might happen.

"One, they are scared that they are going to lose their Internet privileges, and two, they are using their cellphone at school — well, they are not supposed to be using their cellphone at school. So they think they are going to get in trouble," explains Mishna.

She says it's important for parents to minimize damages by not focusing on the fact that their child may have broken the rules.

"Don't take the Internet away because that is your kid's entire social life."

When it comes to online access, Mishna says monitoring which sites your child visits is not enough because there are so many outlets available. Like Auty, she stresses the importance of communicating in order to stay on top of any potential incidents.

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School sales up online

RAF BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

A new survey shows the average Canadian expects to spend $881 shopping on the Internet for their back-to-school needs this season.

The survey was conducted by credit card firm Visa Canada and also showed that nearly one-third of Canadians plan to buy all their back-to-school supplies on the Internet.

Alongside books, which traditionally have been the most common back-to-school items purchased online, 41 per cent of respondents said they plan to buy computers and electronics for school, and 32 per cent said they were going to buy fall and winter clothing online as well.

A survey reveals more people are buying school supplies online.

Zack Fuerstenberg, a director at Visa Canada, says results of the survey show that Canadians are increasingly gravitating to the Internet for a wider variety of purchases during the back-to-school season.

"It's interesting to see the variety of goods Canadians plan to buy online — last year, when we conducted similar research, half of respondents were only planning to purchase books," Fuerstenberg said.

Forty-one per cent of respondents said they were turning to the Internet to make their purchases because of its convenience. Another 41 per cent cited better prices available online and 31 per cent said better selection was also a factor. Males surveyed were more likely to shop for back-to-school supplies online (42 per cent) compared to females (35 per cent).

Find some balance with school groups

RAF BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Students do need to get their homework done, but not at the expense of all their extracurricular activities, experts say.

Activities and hobbies that take place outside of school can be a fundamental part of learning and growing as an individual, whether a student is entering Grade 2 or starting his or her final year of university.

Jill Cressy, an assistant program manager at the University of Toronto's faculty of physical education and health, says extracurricular activities give students energy to tackle all parts of their life. "The general overall benefits of participating in activity or wellness groups are an increase in energy, both physical and mental, or even spiritual," Cressy said. She says a little exercise can go a long way, strengthening the immune system and increasing metabolism to prevent weight gain. Even outside of physical activity, extracurricular groups can help students reduce stress.

"Teams and groups can give you a sense of fun and joy as well — it's all about managing stress," Cressy said.

Mary Polak, British Columbia's minister of healthy living and sports, strongly promoted after-school sports programs as a key component of the educational process in a recent statement.

"Participation in sport brings many social, physical and emotional benefits that serve students well in all aspects of their lives, now and in the future. Sport fosters self-confidence, teamwork, sportsmanship, and school and community pride," Polak wrote.

Dr. Nayyar Razvi, a physician at Etobicoke General Hospital in Toronto, agrees that group activities can give students confidence and teach worthwhile lessons even while letting students have a little fun.

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Fall home fashion aglow in metallic, mirror finishes

It's a trend that resurfaces, so to speak, every few years. Yet there are always new examples of creative craftsmanship.

This year, Pottery Barn has introduced a line of mirrored, sleek and sexy tables, while Crate & Barrel offers an array of muscular silver and copper vases.

The trend is everywhere at all price points. Metals, Lucite, gold leaf, ceramic and glass are fashioned into decorative elements. And in soft furnishings, there are iridescent table linens, as well as metallic threaded throws to dress the sofa.

Some of the mirrored furniture looks lean and lithe, as light reflects off pencil thin legs and slim drawers. But there are statement pieces, too, big and bold.

The look is reminiscent of 1930s Hollywood, all glamour and gloss.

Clad in highly polished aluminum or plated resin, Modern Dose's curvy Deco Table, Philippe Starck's Kong chair and Harry Allen's whimsical rollerskate doorstop all play on "shiny."

If sleek reflections aren't your thing, there are accessories that feature more muted burnished and hammered metals, sumptuous raw silks, and faux leathers in gold, bronze and pewter.

West Elm's block table lamps are clad in luminous shells. Paired with wood furniture, these pieces provide lambent texture in a room.

Chiasso has debuted some interesting peel-and-stick tiles, upholstered in pewter or mercury toned vinyl.

They'd make a sophisticated headboard or wall installation. Ballard Designs retails an antiqued glass collection of screens and floor mirrors that can both divide and open up a room.

And the Lucite trays lined with colourful graphic papers from stationery e-retailer iomoi are popular — iomoi will create a custom design to fit a small or ottoman-size tray. Aaron Thomas, a Los Angeles-based designer, sculpts acrylic into furniture, artwork and colourful boxes.

He says the "purity" of the material makes it exciting to work with.

"It both catches your eye, and disappears into the room. It's uncommon enough that people just kind of light up when they see it."

Charles Hollis Jones is considered a pioneer in acrylic furniture design.

"It's as or more valuable than bronze on the vintage market now," Jones says.

He believes that acrylic's longevity — "pieces I made 47 years ago look the same as the day I made them" — stems from an architectural and organic resonance.

"People appreciate how light carries and penetrates in an acrylic piece."

The reflective quality of these finishes can work in smaller rooms and entryways.

Mirrored tables provide useful surfaces without filling up a lot of space.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clockwise from above: Philippe Starck's Kong chair for Emeco in polished aluminum; the Wright tempered glass and polished nickel dining table from Pottery Barn; Chiasso's Mirrored Blox and Ledge; the Margaux mirrored glass vanity set and tissue box.

"Pieces I made 47 years ago look the same as the day I made them."
Charles Hollis Jones on the longevity of acrylics

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Decor

Read more in the October issue of STYLE AT HOME magazine.
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Child's play

Unique rooms for wee occupants

HOME LIBRARY Children's Rooms by Andrea Maflin, $28, Cico, hardcover, 144 pages. A child's room should be as unique as the little person who sleeps and plays there. Maflin offers advice on planning, designing and budgeting for the playground set (infant to eight years). Designs range from a boho-chic nursery with handmade toys to an eco-friendly one with repurposed furniture and low-energy light bulbs to a pretty pink room fit for a princess. — JENN HOULIHAN

Warm thoughts

All-season quilt does double duty

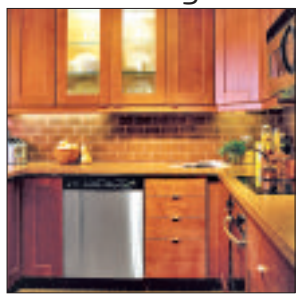
HOME & STYLE A duvet is inevitably too hot or not warm enough for our unpredictable Canadian climate — which means you need more than one, depending on the season. Until now. IKEA gets it just right with the new "quilt for all seasons." Consisting of two different layers — thin and cool for summer and slightly thicker for spring and fall — the quilts can be attached for heavy-duty cosiness on long, cold winter nights. Mysa Rönn full/queen quilt, warmth rate 1+3, $80, IKEA — BRETT WALTHER

Goodbye builder's beige!

A once-boring condo kitchen gets warmed up with a reno

This homeowner, a consultant who's a big home decor fan, is in the loop when it comes to what's new and next. However, her kitchen was neither. Its blandness left her cold.

To add texture, warmth and rich colour to her kitchen, she turned to design consultant and Style at Home style editor Karl Lohnes. "With painted melamine and lots of beige, this was not a personal space," says Karl. His plan was to inject personality with a sophisticated palette and customize the room with new appliances and updated storage. Although there were challenges — adhering to condo regulations and keeping it all cost-effective — Karl created a stylish kitchen that's as warm and inviting as its coppery brown hues.



TED YARWOOD PHOTOS

• With the tight budget in mind, Karl opted for IKEA cabinetry. "It offers the best value on the market," he says. He chose a dark bronze shade to create the desired warmth, and mixed in glass-front cupboards to lighten the look and create a focal point. He also extended the cabinetry up to the ceiling, which added more storage and created a cleaner look.

• Beautiful finishes are a great way to add richness to a room. Made of black granite, the sink resembles pricey soapstone and creates a dramatic effect; the faucet looks like solid copper but is copper-plated.

• Karl calls the backsplash a splurge, a real showstopper. "These are actually ceramic tiles that came plated with copper," he says. The result is a rich tonal effect that brings a new level of sophistication to the budget-friendly cabinetry. — CHRISTY WRIGHT

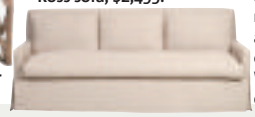
Shopping, etc. **Anticipating the imminent arrival of Crate & Barrel**

We're thrilled that U.S.-based emporium Crate & Barrel will open its doors in late September at Yorkdale Shopping Centre. Why the excitement? Crate & Barrel is an all-in-one decor delight, with everything from small appliances and dishes, to sofas, beds and dining room furniture you won't find elsewhere. — HELEN RACANELLI

Left, Serena paisley bed linens, $39 to $169; Caprice table lamp, $229; Bento queen bed, $1,799, and nightstand, $499.

Associate design editor Tamara Robbins says Crate & Barrel has "affordable quality furnishings that balance trendy and classic perfectly." Her fave: The Flynn coffee table, $599.

Senior design editor Margot Austin says, "I've been shopping at Crate & Barrel in the U.S. for years, but now my secret source is out — drat!" She wants the Ross sofa, $2,499.



"The company's designs have an extraordinary attention to detail — something that's refreshing at such affordable prices," says assistant design editor Brett Walther. He covets the Avery bombé chest, $899.

Dare to be dramatic with dark wallpaper and jewel-tone upholstery

GRAHAM & BROWN

Q I'm about to redecorate and am thinking of putting up wallpaper. I like dark, rich colours, but I don't see them much in magazines like Style at Home. Are they passé? Is it not a good idea to commit to a dark colour in wallpaper?

Rosanna Santilli, Toronto

A I think the reason you haven't seen the dark colours is actually not because they're passé but the opposite — the next big thing. If you want to know the upcoming trends in decor, look no further than the fashion runways and racks. Sooner or later those colours find their way into our homes.

The deep plum Chrysanthemum wallpaper shown at left, from British company Graham & Brown, is a great example. The line is by the English fashion brand Monsoon, purveyors of what I call a high-end romantic boho look. Amethyst, fig, merlot and sapphire are some of the fashion colours we'll be seeing in decorating. To make this look work, finish your space with eclectic furnishings.

Take inspiration from this photo: Combine Moroccan side tables with Granny's hand-me-downs done up in jewel-tone velvets and shapely plucked-from-around-the-globe accessories. Graham & Brown papers are available through grahambrown.com and at The Home Depot.

Margot Austin, senior design editor, Style at Home

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T.O.'s condo choices: Not so black and white now

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE PHOTO

Like the popular kid in high school, downtown remains a desired choice of many condo buyers. But also like high school, looking beyond the gloss can find solid options elsewhere.

Believe it or not, we're officially into September. The kids are back to school and summer is on its way back to history. Looking back on those school days I can't help but feel fondly nostalgic sometimes. I'm sure all of us at one time or another look back on our days in high school and think about going back, even if just for a few moments. Alas things change — rarely do things remain as they were.

Consider our real estate market for instance. As recently as three years ago, there were only three main condo development areas in Toronto to consider. Today there are more than double that.

So in the spirit of the back-to-school season, let's take a look at some of these condo areas and how they compare.

First there is, of course, downtown. Like the popular football quarterback with all the exterior flare, this area offers all the flash and dash that can be expected, and represents the safest — or most socially acceptable — choice.

However, in the long run, you may end up realizing that safety has its price — a higher price.

Choosing King West is like falling for that insanely popular gorgeous type, who had the perfect mix of inner and outer beauty, and an enormous appeal matched only by the size of her enormous ego.

King West offers a uniquely chic side when compared to the downtown core, but unless you do your homework you may find that the area isn't exactly what you thought it would be.

On the other hand, if you're aware of the subtle downfalls (which aren't very many) King West may be what you're looking for.

North York and Mississauga are two other areas that now fall into the same class as the more popular kids.

However, this article isn't just about the "in crowd."

Some areas could surprise you and just might offer that perfect combination that the most common areas cannot.

Consider the Etobicoke area, or "New Toronto" as it's been dubbed. Along the lakeshore west of High Park, to about Kipling, New Toronto is like that high school guy or girl who turns a few heads in class because there is a sparkle, a humble charm, a certain indescribable allure, but eventually gets forgotten in the spotlight of the quarterback, prom queen and school president.

Etobicoke, however, offers tremendous value while maintaining a relatively desirable location. Price per square foot is more attractive, some stunning lake views are available, and the area is about as accessible as it gets without being directly downtown. Also consider new downtown Markham, currently anchored by Tridel's Circa towers, which is currently being erected between Highway 7 and the 407, centring at Warden and spanning east and west.

Downtown Markham is very much like that quiet, shy, kid who always had the grades but seemed to lack very much else.

These are the ones that can surprise you the most. Downtown Markham promises great upside and potential in an area that is filled with mid- to upper-class residents, and very well-connected to the major arteries of the city.

Looked at through objective eyes, downtown Markham could very well prove to be the ugly duckling of our real estate market, or the kid that's remembered as the loner, or barely remembered at all, who shows up at the 10-year reunion in a Porsche with a supermodel on his arm.

The city's options are expanding, and as any economist will tell you, choice and healthy competition makes for a stronger marketplace.

While the older or more obvious condo choices will continue to offer supreme benefits and appeal, remember to consider the newer areas as well, for those areas could prove to offer the greatest long-term possibilities.

Amit is a Realtor/Developer with Re/Max. amitp@rogers.com

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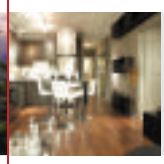

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Flea markets don't have fleas

ArrestingDesign

Ahhhh! What could be more delightful than leisurely weekend trips to local flea markets to pick up décor treasures?

But wait — the design team can already hear the groans of protest from all you urban-dwelling hipsters. Well, before you get too adamant, Tammy and I are here to tell you that flea markets may be good for a lot more than grandma-style doilies and chipped old china.

Even if you're not into the country or cottage look, a visit to the flea market or second-hand store may be just the thing to help you inject some personality into your décor.

And you don't need to totally embrace that antique-y look that flea market finds can often impart. Instead, you mix and match to add interest. Remember that it is often the finishing touches that will turn a somewhat ordinary roomful of new furnishings into a room that sparkles and is a true reflection of the owner's refined tastes and interests. What could be better than that?

When you choose items from the flea market, pay attention to colour and form so the pieces fit into your existing décor. For example, a series of old mustard jars in a grey-green colour may fit beautifully into your cream and green kitchen. Also, buy in pairs so you can avoid that lonely, lost-item look. Or else you may think in terms of a collection or a theme — the items must look related to each other in some way. For example, a series of bird drawings found in vintage books may be framed and hung on the wall to delightful effect.

The wonderful thing about vintage items is that many are or look handmade, and they proudly bear imperfections and the scars of many years of use. They are beautiful in a well-aged way that a brand-new shiny piece of furniture or crockery could never be.

A series of vintage beakers placed on a new table, for example, will help add personality and warmth and will soften the hard edges and look of mass-produced furniture. It will add a sense of history, of connection to the past — a very attractive quality.

An antique piece of furniture, placed amidst a more modern setting can produce an interesting counterpoint, a contrast to the other pieces. It will add a patina of history, a sense of elegance and timelessness to a new place that may not have — let's face it — much personality.

As long as the piece itself is solid, you can repaint, reupholster or refinish it in any way you like. In fact, a modern finish or a contemporary fabric on an older piece can make it a showstopper. Don't forget that you can also incorporate knitted throws or throw cushions with old-fashioned lace ruffles to add a sense of personality and warmth. If you're handy with a sewing machine, you can use old faded curtains to make delightful vintage-looking slipcovers for non-descript-dining room chairs, for example.

As always, be selective. Only choose those items that you love, and continuously weed out those things you no longer find pleasing.

Finally, be prepared to take the time it takes for you to amass a truly personalized and treasured collection of furnishings and décor. It will not happen overnight, but the local flea market is truly a great place to get started, even if you are an urban hipster.

Our design team says there are gems to be found at flea markets — even if you're not into the country or cottage look.

Tammy Schnurr and Jeffrey Fisher are hosts of Arresting Design on W Network.

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Protecting the consumer

Q I am considering purchasing a new home and the builder is requiring several up front deposits even before the ground has been broken. What protection do I have for my deposits?

A Your deposits are partially covered by the Tarion Warranty Corporation which is a province wide regulator of new home purchases in Ontario. For new houses, you are guaranteed up to $40,000 in deposits while this is limted to $20,000 for new condominiums (greater amounts are covered under the trust and excess deposit insurance provisions in the Condominium Act).

There are very few new homes that do not have some deficiencies, although many builders go to great lengths to make sure their finished product is as perfect as possible.

LegalMatters

Jeffrey D. Cowan
jeff@cowanandtaylor.com

However, Tarion covers a lot more than just your deposits. Formerly known as the Ontario New Home Warranty Program, Tarion provides comprehensive warranty to cover the workmanship of the builder.

When you purchase a new home (houses and condos), you are required to attend at your new home prior to possession for a Pre-Delivery Inspection (PDI) where you tour the premises and note in a list the deficiencies or problems with the home. Believe me, there are very few new purchases out there that do not have some deficiencies, although many builders go to great lengths to make their finished product is as perfect as possible. The builder then has a certain time frame in which to correct the deficiencies. Tarion goes on to warranty the property for comprehensive coverage with respect to problems or deficiencies which may not be readily apparent; such as a leaky roof or basement. There are definite time frames that limit the time for making a claim for certain types of problems.

A third common problem that Tarion addresses is delay in closings and possession of freehold homes and condominiums. These time limits have recently changed but there is a potential of $100 per day for temporary living expenses and up to $5,000 for increases in moving expenses (if you have to store your belongings while you wait for your new home).

All of this is clearly set out in Tarion's website at tarion.com. So, if you are buying a new home, make sure you know your rights and what your warranty covers by going to the website and doing your homework.

Jeffrey D. Cowan is the principal of Cowan & Taylor, Barristers & Solicitors, jeff@cowanandtaylor.com. The information in this article should not be relied upon as legal advice.

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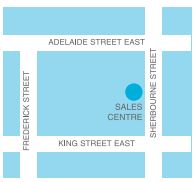

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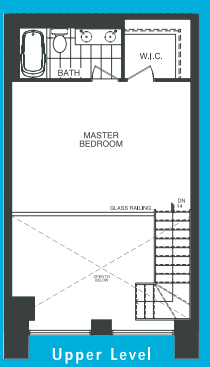

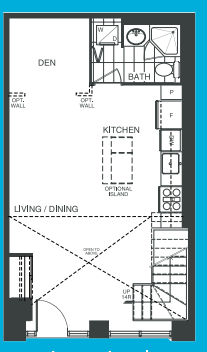

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ANDREA SATIN full/queen quilt cover set
$69.99/3pcs.
was ~~$79.99~~/3pcs.

ANDREA SATIN full/queen quilt cover set $69.99/3pcs. was ~~$79.99~~/3pcs. Includes 1 quilt cover and 2 pillowcases. Pink/multicolour. 100% cotton.

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HEMNES 6-drawer chest $299 was ~~$349~~. White. Smooth running drawer with pull-out stop. W110×D51×H132cm. RA.

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New dreamhomes & condominiums Magazine
To learn more about new homes real estate, pick-up your FREE copy of New dreamhomes & condominiums Magazine at your nearest DreamBox.

Hooking a cottage deal

InteriorDivine

Don't let anyone tell you that the Canadian property market is suffering. Okay, so it mightn't be as buoyant as it was some 12 months back but we're still seeing deals where buyers and sellers are happy with the outcome.

In our own condo block, for example, two suites recently sold; one for — albeit modestly — over asking. Played carefully, and with measured expectation, contracts — from either side of the fence — can still be rewarding.

One area that's particularly buoyant (aside, that is, from the rental sector which often performs well when sales are slow) is the cottage market. Yup, for those who want to pamper their indulgent predilections via domestic "luxuries" (above and beyond the spa bathroom and flat screen TV category!) there's a plethora of available choice.

So what are the options? Well, Muskoka's Little Lake Joe is expensive. We recently visited at the behest of Canadian film producer Robert Lantos, and it was a stunningly beautiful experience — but let's just say that a MAJOR lottery win wouldn't even touch a place like his. However, for each tale of hedonistic avarice we have a counterbalance. Take our colleague, for example, who's just secured a second home near Picton, Prince Edward Co. And the cost? Just $170K. And for that he got an acre of land and the sweetest little two bedroom cottage. We'll admit that it'll take a spot of DIY, but he'll potentially double his investment.

But there's more! We have a friend who's just bought an ENTIRE island for $130K! Positioned on a small lake, it remains eminently driveable from Toronto, and, compact as it is (about a third of an acre), it boasts a cottage with three bedrooms as well as an adorable guest bunkie.

OK, so it remains the subject of ongoing improvement, but more than deserves the moniker "Paradise Island." What's more, it's fast becoming a private retreat where our pal and her family enjoy utter seclusion, while only a five minute boat ride from the mainland!

So broaden your horizons as you, ahem, tighten your belt! Use search mechanisms such as www.househunting.ca (a great new alternative to MLS) or plunder Google using terms like "for sale by owner," or simply "affordable cottage."

We'd also recommend searching via U.S. estate agents, many of whom carry Canadian holiday home inventory, stock of which Americans now want to rid themselves of to avoid further foreclosures.

Forget the all too familiar (and somewhat worrying) stateside maxim 'Sub Prime' — in Canada it's okay (as long as you DON'T overstretch yourself) to focus on SUBLIME. Yup, you can still spread your net and find an awesome value home from home; you just have to look a little harder to find it. Good luck, and we'll see you next week!

Colin McAllister and Justin Ryan are the hosts of HGTV's Colin & Justin's Home Heist and authors of Colin & Justin's Home Heist Style Guide.

the Giving Day

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The Storey of Pam

Pam recently severed the proverbial cord, got her own pad and started her first job. Meet Pam, aka career woman. Like the rest of her friends who've entered the work force, she pretends to work and they pretend to pay her. But at least now her time is hers. Or at least what's left of it once she's gone through the voicemails her mom leaves daily. The rest of the time she's out with the girls sampling the eclectic bounty the local eateries, bars and pubs have to offer. That is unless she's entertaining in the condo's ultra modern party room or fully decked out lounge. Complete with fireplace, bar and flatscreen TV. And should she feel culturally inclined, the Sheppard Subway is right there to take her the short pirouette away to the Theatre for Performing Arts.

Visit menkes.com/lifestoreys to see how the storey of Pam plays out.

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Keeping kids cool
Freeze tetra packs of juice or milk. They will be thawed by snack or lunchtime while keeping the rest of the lunch cold. And they can be recycled. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

"Variety is key to successful lunches, variety in flavour but also in colour and texture (soft, crunchy, smooth, firm)."

Barb Holland/for Metro Canada

Remember
At the end of the day, check your child's lunch bags/backpacks. Sometimes food is not eaten or discarded as quickly as it should.

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Honey, it's time for school

À la carte

Barb Holland
Metro Food Writer

Oh boy, back to school, back to routines and, yes, packing lunches again. Here is a recipe for easy and tasty no-bake bars that can be wrapped for lunch boxes or as an after-school snack, and a few tips.

Chewy Dried Fruit Oatmeal Bars

Change it up with your preferred dried fruit in place of the apricots and raisins — figs, dates and dried cranberries, cherries or blueberries. Makes 18 bars.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1-1/2 cups (375 mL) Corn Flakes or Rice Krispies type cereal
- 1 cup (250 mL) quick cooking oats (not instant)
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) diced dried apricots
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) raisins
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) butter
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) brown sugar
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) liquid honey
- 1 tsp (5 mL) grated orange peel
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) vanilla

METHOD:

Line a 9-inch (23-cm) square baking pan with a parchment paper sling (ends hanging over to make it easy to remove). Lightly oil or spray ends that do not have paper.

In a large bowl, combine cereal, oats, apricots and raisins.

In a small saucepan, combine butter, brown sugar and honey. Over medium heat, bring to a boil, stirring frequently. Boil 1 minute, stirring often. Remove from heat, stir in orange peel and vanilla.

Pour over cereal mixture and stir well to thoroughly combine. Press evenly and firmly into prepared pan. Refrigerate to firm up.

Better Brown Bagging:

- The midday meal should meet one-third of your children's daily nutritional needs. Include at least one food from each of the four food groups in their lunch box: Fruit and vegetables, grains, dairy products, meat and meat substitutes. Including the four food groups not only provides healthy meals, but adds colour — just think of the rainbow of Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating.
- Keep lunch staples on hand in your refrigerator and pantry: Fruit juices, tomato cocktails, canned fruit, fruit compotes, cereal bars, cheese sticks, dried fruit, yogurts, individually packed carrots and fruit, etc. Have your children prepare the lunches with you. They will pack preferred foods and are less likely to trade or toss if they have invested the time.
- Buy reusable containers — sturdy lunch bags and boxes are available now in a fun range of colours. Include fingertip "wipes" or a damp cloth in a sealable bag. Wrap your sandwiches in parchment paper — it's a sturdy wrap and can be recycled into the green bin.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

Honey gives this recipe just enough natural sweetness that children love.

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Billy's Best Bottles
"Cesari's Merlot has been the best value red in town for several years now and the newly arrived '07 vintage could be the best yet." To read this week's Billy's Best Bottles column, visit metronews.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

A genuinely 'aged' cheese

Rosenborg — a name inspired by the Royal Rosenborg Castle in Denmark — has been producing award-winning cheeses since 1926. This recipe was created specifically to highlight the unique quality and texture of Rosenborg Traditional Blue Cheese. Serves 4.

Pork Chops stuffed with Pecans and Blue Cheese

INGREDIENTS:
- 4 pork loin chops
- 1 pack (125g) ROSENBORG® Traditional Blue Cheese
- 25 g pecans, chopped
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) fresh breadcrumbs
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) fresh thyme leaves
- Salt and pepper
- Oil for brushing and further thyme leaves for garnish

METHOD:

Crumble the cheese and combine well with the chopped nuts, breadcrumbs and herbs, seasoned well with salt and pepper.

Make a horizontal slit in each of the loin chops and place a quarter of the cheese mixture into each. Seal with a wooden toothpick or metal skewer.

Preheat the grill to high, brush the chops very lightly with oil and sprinkle with thyme, then grill for 8 to 10 minutes on each side.

Serve with toothpick/skewer carefully removed, sprinkled with fresh thyme and accompanied by seasonal vegetables of your choice.

Tip:
For easy removal of sticks before serving, brush them with oil before using to close the slit.

This recipe was created to highlight the unique texture of Rosenborg Traditional Blue Cheese.

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Style

Meet our stylists! ELLE experts shares their fall favourites and style secrets!

STYLE CONTENT BY ELLE CANADA ellecanada.com

ELLE CANADA

Life is sweet

Minnie Driver's second act.

By **Laura deCarufel**
Senior Editor

In person, Minnie Driver is as voluble, funny and feisty as Dahlia Malloy, the character she plays to Emmy-nominated acclaim on the TV show The Riches (FX). "It's the best part I've ever been offered," says Driver, in New York to attend a party hosted by The Body Shop to celebrate 21 years of creating community-trade projects. "The character and the show supported everything that I was looking to do in my grown-up, professional life." That busy life also includes music: Driver recently released her second album, Seastories, which features turns from Liz Phair and Ryan Adams. Volunteer work is important to her as well. She has visited Cambodia and Thailand with Oxfam — a charity she has supported since childhood — and is a passionate, vocal believer in community trade. "It's the fastest way to change the world," she says."With Oxfam and community-trade programs like The Body Shop's, the money goes directly to the people, and they can choose what to do with it. They know how to make their lives better."

Then there's impending motherhood — a subject on which Driver is mum. The woman once better known for her string of high-profile boyfriends — Damon, Cusack, Brolin — now appears set to command the stage herself.

PURPLE REIGN

EXPERT Joanna Schlip, celebrity makeup artist for Physicians Formula, on how to achieve an ultra-violet smoky eye ● After prepping the eyelids with an eyeshadow primer, sweep a pale-violet shadow from the lash line to the browbone. ● Blend a deeper shade of purple into the crease, softly brushing it up toward the browbone and the outer corner of the eye. ● Outline the upper and lower eyelids with black liner, smudging it with your fingertip for a smoky effect. Curl the lashes, and finish with two coats of black mascara.

YSL 5 Colour Harmony for Eyes in No. 4 Lilac Sky ($72)

Physicians Formula 100% Natural Origin Eyeliner in Black Night Organics ($12)

Bare Escentuals bareMinerals Eyeshadow in Passionate Plum ($16)

The Natural

Earth-tone bags swing to a '70s beat.

Leather ($495, Banana Republic)

Leather ($240, La Diva)

Pleather ($220, Matt & Nat)

Leather ($275, High Fashion Handbag)

Leather ($200, La Diva)

PVC ($80, Urban Expressions)

STUDIO ANDRÉ DOYON

Long sleeve half-zip top and track jacket ($50 and $65, Puma)

COVER GIRL

When your body temperture cools down, throw on a light layer that looks as stylish in the gym as it does on your commute home. Made from breathable, form-fitting polyester, Puma's half-zip top has shirred details to flatter the female form, while its track jacket is durable enough to withstand a bout of windy weather. **LESLEY YOUNG**

EDITORS' PICK

BOLD HUES!

Stand out in hues that sizzle and pop! The colour purple meets the disco ball in boots designed to cause double takes ($1,595, Jimmy Choo).

WHAT'S NEW Who says brains and beauty can't go hand in hand? A serum that is applied before moisturizer, La Mer's The Hydrating Infusion "reads" the skin's temperature and moisture and pH levels to deliver optimum hydration.

La Mer The Hydrating Infusion ($115)

ELLE CANADA

Legendary hairstylist Sam McKnight creates four hot fall looks, only in ELLE Canada!

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Punch up colour quotient for fall

Temperatures may be cooling as summer winds down, but the colour quotient remains cranked to full blast heading into fall, as brightly hued and patterned accessories give added punch to the back-to-school wardrobe. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Style

Beauty powerhouses collaborate

Can't get enough OPI? Well fans of the popular professional nail care line can now try hot new colours in the form of the Sephora by OPI line, a recent collaboration by two beauty powerhouses. Offering more than 60 items in all, Sephora by OPI boasts 54 long-lasting, chip-resistant nail lacquers as well as nail care items like hand moisturizers, cuticle oil and nail colour remover. Left: nail shades in Arm Candy, far left, Caffeine Fix and Nonfat Soy Half Caff, $11 each. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Bag of goodies

Transporting your personals in style

LAURA LEE FULHAM FOR METRO CANADA

ABOVE: Zipper shopper red bag, Roots, $458 (Available at Roots stores across Canada and *www. roots.com*)

ABOVE: Browns ID purse, Browns, $120 (Available at Browns stores or *www.brownsshoes.com*)

RIGHT: Blue reversible bag, Le Chateau, $69.95 (For store locations, visit *www.lechateau.com*)

RIGHT: Black patent leather bag, Town Shoes, $110 (Availability at *www.townshoes.com*)

ABOVE: Faux Croc brown bag, Jeanne Lottie, $100 (Available at *www.jeannelottie.com*).

RIGHT: Big green purse, Esprit, $94.50 (Available at 1-866-4ESPRIT)

SNAKESKIN, GREEN AND BLUE BAGS SHOT BY DAVID VAN DYKE

New footwear store launches

OPENING The company that operates Winners and HomeSense is adding a new category to its lineup – shoes.

StyleSense will be dedicated to just shoes for women, men and kids and at 15,000-square-feet, it sounds like shoe heaven for footwear fanatics.

The first two StyleSense stores open today at Vaughan Mills and Oakville Place.

Just like its sister store Winners, there will be brand names galore at affordable prices. The store will also be stocking that other delectable goody – bags.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Style File

Kim Elbo

kim.elbo@metronews.ca

ask kim

I have a friend who wants an Andy Roddick Lacoste hat with a capital "L" on the front. Do you know if they are still available, and from where?

- Sandy, Toronto

I spoke to Lacoste Canada and they said that the item you mentioned was from a past collection and that it was limited edition. Try calling the head office in Montreal to see if they carry it in back stock: 1-800-798-1212.

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Arithmetic
Designer: Lifetime
Shop: Eugene Choo
eugenechoo.com

Bright Graphics
Designer: Kidrobot
Shop: Voltage
voltageland.com

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.

graphic tees

A new school semester can't start without new school gear. Get noticed and be heard without saying a word with a protest T-shirt. If you like shirts filled with fun graphics then check out the Lifetime collection of shirts at Eugene Choo. The one pictured is my favourite as it's filled with images from a geometry set. A collection of T-shirts wouldn't be complete without a simple graphic tee by Kidrobot. Shop the Kidrobot store for bright graffiti inspired graphics — *kidrobot.com*.

accessory

For the ladies, try on a pair of these Tokidoki skull and safetypin inspired earrings. $50 Available at Blue Ruby – *blueruby.com*

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Author to stop writing

Stephenie Meyer, bestselling author of the Twilight franchise, has announced on her website that she will no longer continue writing Midnight Sun after an early, incomplete draft was posted illegally online. EW.COM

Entertainment

Guy's denial

Director Guy Ritchie has denied that actor Russell Crowe is to play Sherlock Holmes' sidekick Dr. Watson in a new movie about the fictional detective. IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

top DVDs

The most popular DVDs according to Rogers Video for the period ending Aug. 31.

DVD RENTALS

- 1. What Happens in Vegas
- 2. Street King
- 3. Smart People
- 4. The Scorpion King 2: Rise of a Warrior
- 5. 21
- 6. Prom Night
- 7. Harold and Kumar: Escape From Guantanamo Bay
- 8. The Bank Job
- 9. Nim's Island
- 10. Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day

Great White offers $1M to settle suit

FIRE Members of the 1980s rock band whose pyrotechnics sparked a nightclub fire that killed 100 people have agreed to pay $1 million US to survivors and victims' relatives, according to court papers filed Tuesday.

The settlement offer from Great White is the latest stemming from the February 2003 fire. Roughly $175 million has now been offered by dozens of defendants to settle lawsuits over the blaze, which also injured more than 200 people and is the fourth-deadliest nightclub fire in U.S. history.

Surfers charged in actor surf battle

CHARGES Two surfers have been charged with misdemeanor battery for allegedly throwing a photographer into the water as he tried to shoot pictures of Matthew McConaughey surfing, prosecutors said Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wilson's new vibrations

GETTY IMAGES FILE

Brian Wilson's new disc is ambitious and quirky, but at 66 he shouldn't be singing odes to surfer girls.

Terrence Howard

Album: Shine Through It
Label: Columbia/Sony BMG
Rating: ●●●

DESPITE SOME interesting albums by Zooey Deschanel and Scarlett Johansson, the actor-turned-singer failure rate is still high. But another big time movie star has defied the odds and released, for the most part, a commendable debut album. Hustle & Flow star Terrence Howard wrote every song on this record, to varied success. The title track, with it's old-time Wonder-esque R&B sheen, is pleasing to listen to, but Mr. Johnson's Lawn's annoying talk-like singing is about as grating as it gets. It's a good record for an actor, but not a great effort for a musician. Bryan Borzykowski

Creepshow

Album: Run For Your Life
Label: Stomp
Rating: ●●●

WHEN SARAH 'SIN' Blackwood invites you to be her "Demon Lover," the correct response is "Yes, please ... um ... thank you very much." It's the allure of this blonde banshee's voice that gives The Creepshow a leg up on other psycho-punk quartets. Otherwise, there's not too much original in the concept of combining rockabilly with Grade-B horror movies. The reality of Gene Vincent and Jerry Lee Lewis was far darker than the music these suburban late-show viewers could ever contrive. Kudos for the Bijou-sounding organ, though. It gives the music a Vincent Price feel. Graham Rockingham

Slipknot

Album: All Hope Is Gone
Label: Roadrunner/Universal
Rating: ●●●

METAL BANDS come and go all the time, but one group that's been surprisingly consistent for more than 12 years is Slipknot. On the group's fifth LP, the still masked nine-piece deliver yet again, barreling through a number of thrashy nu-metal tunes that both terrify and satisfy at the same time. All the songs are pretty aggressive, but Gematria is a blistering rock assault that'll make your head spin. The slower tunes are nothing special, but it doesn't matter; blazing, gut-wrenching drums and high octane guitar is what this group is all about. Bryan Borzykowski

Brian Wilson

Album: That Old Lucky Sun
Label: Capitol/EMI
Rating: ●●

IT'S TIME PEOPLE stopped waiting for the second coming of Brian Wilson. While it's true the head Beach Boy created some of the most sublime sounds ever produced on the planet ... that was more than 40 years ago. We've been hoping ever since that Brian would simply step out of his shrink's office and pick up where he left off with Heroes and Villains. It ain't gonna happen. That Old Lucky Sun is an ambitious, but quirky attempt at a Southern California suite. At the age of 66, however, Wilson should not be singing odes to surfer girls. It just seems icky. It might have been nicely nostalgic if his shakey voice wasn't so annoying. And when he breaks into spoken word to recite Van Dyke Park poetry, it's embarrassing. "Venice Beach is poppin' like live shrimp dropped on a hot wok," Wilson moans in his best Leonard Cohen voice. Brush off your copy of Pet Sounds and give this one a pass. Graham Rockingham

Album Reviews

music@metronews.ca

Blues Traveler

Album: North Hollywood Shootout
Label: Verve/Universal
Rating: ●●

IT'S AMAZING HOW a band with such a stellar reputation for live performances can release such a boring studio album. For much of North Hollywood Shootout, Blues Traveler sounds more like the Barenaked Ladies than Blues Traveler. For the most part, there's little evidence of the great jamband we loved in the '90s. Graham Rockingham

New Kids On The Block

Album: The Block
Label: Interscope/Universal
Rating: ●

LIKE THE SILLY album name, this band's first record in 14 years is a collection of juvenile boy band songs, similar to what they released years ago. It's hard to understand why NKOTB even released a new disc — concert fans only want to hear the hits. If they think they can reclaim their best-selling status, they better think again — this five-piece doesn't have the right stuff. Bryan Borzykowski

Big money for Bond swag
James Bond memorabilia has sold for more than $55,000 US in Edinburgh, Scotland. **BBC NEWS ONLINE**

Watch while you wait

Urban film festival brings films to subway platforms

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

Hazily layered grayscale images of spinning bicycle wheels and Toronto's cityscape weave together in Rachel Conduit's new film. It retells the 20 minutes on a Friday in May when nearly 200 cyclists usurped automotive occupation and overtook the Gardiner Expressway.

But in her translation, Conduit is deprived an open road: her film must be a minute long, silent and have one heck of a story.

We took the Gardiner is Conduit's submission to the second annual Toronto Urban Film Festival (TUFF) and it's a film the 23-year-old Leslieville resident said she created in response to cyclist-driver drama spurred by the event. "I did a nostalgic look. It was kind of like children riding bikes back in the '50s, but it was adults on an expressway," she said.

Conduit's film is just one of 77 being shown at the TUFF. The weeklong film festival begins tomorrow and runs to Sept. 12, and features seven thematic categories of one-minute silent films that will be shown each day on the TTC OneStop screens on subway platforms. The TUFF Choice Award will be chosen by online voting at the festival's website (torontourbanfilmfestival.com), while celebrity guest judge Mark McKinney will choose the Top 3 films.

> **"Not everybody has time to go to a film festival or an art gallery."**
> Sharon Switzer, TUFF curator

"It's kind of genius," said The Kids In the Hall comedic veteran. "(The films) are designed to be seen in a certain way. They're meant to be silent, they'll play in their complete form and people will be able to watch the whole thing because they're just a minute."

To judge the submissions, McKinney said he focused on the story.

"I felt I could get into shorts because I had a criteria: is there a story? That's fairly easy to follow."

McKinney said his judgment wasn't influenced by film equipment, since films made with camera phones versus full-on animation suites could both produce good stories.

Bringing film to where people live is why TUFF aims to reach TTC commuters, said Sharon Switzer, the festival's curator.

"Why wouldn't it be important to reach commuters? ... Not everybody has time to go to a film festival or an art gallery."

During a time when the city is abuzz with energy over the Toronto International Film Festival, Switzer said coinciding TUFF with TIFF was a conscious choice to capitalize on that excitement.

"I wanted to bring film to commuters at a time when that energy is around, but they don't have to go and line up to get tickets."

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I bought a package and I'm so glad I did! Apple Cider 600 is fantastic! I have been taking them now for 6 weeks and I'm thrilled. I feel so much lighter and confident. I simply took 3 tablets a day, as recommended, drank more water, watched my snack intake somewhat, and the pounds just came off gradually. So I have finally thrown away all my baggy clothes and treated myself to a new wardrobe - It's so much better than snacks!"

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Lohan speaks out on Palin's daughter

Lindsay Lohan says on her blog that all the talk about the pregnancy of Sarah Palin's 17-year-old daughter is distracting from "all world issues and what (the U.S. vice-presidential candidate) believes she could possibly do to change them." PEOPLE.COM

In brief

KUDOS The U.S. Library of Congress will honour singer Stevie Wonder with its second Gershwin Prize for Popular Song. The Gershwin Prize, which recognizes a musician's lifetime of work, will be given to Wonder on Feb. 23.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Electric guitar founder Paul to be honoured

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame will pay tribute to the "father of the electric guitar" this fall.

Les Paul will be honoured at the annual American Music Masters series, a weeklong event that begins Nov. 10, Rock Hall officials announced earlier this week.

A tribute concert — artists will be named later — is scheduled Nov. 15 at Cleveland's State Theatre.

Paul, 93, is hoping to attend, said Rock Hall president and CEO Terry Stewart.

"You have an inductee who, in some ways, maybe has had one of the biggest influences of all our inductees with the creation of his solid-body guitar, overdubbing ... not to mention his musical styling and his ability to play," Stewart said.

Paul began playing guitar as a child and by 13 was performing semiprofessionally as a country-music guitarist.

He built a solid-body electric guitar in 1941 — an invention born from his frustration that audiences were unable to hear him play. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Aniston on 30 Rock
Jennifer Aniston will play a "free-spirited, Fatal Attraction-like stalker" when she guest stars on 30 Rock, NBC has announced. The show returns Oct. 30. PEOPLE.COM

NBC boss preparing for early network exit

IntelleVision

PEACOCKED: The train wreck that's been anticipated ever since Ben Silverman was appointed head of programming at NBC seems to be right on schedule with the fall season about to begin with what's almost universally considered to be a weak slate from the peacock network. Hollywood insider Nikki Finke posted a long entry on her Deadline Hollywood blog on Sunday with the gruesome details, and with a bit of tightening they'd make an amazing series for FX or Showtime one day.

Silverman looks like the likely fall guy if NBC's fall shows tank, but it's a role he seems to be fitting himself for, with the bizarro world logic that permeates Hollywood. The man who's been described as a real-life caricature of Ari Gold, the oily but driven agent played by Jeremy Piven on Entourage, has apparently been openly drinking and drugging the nights away while blowing off important meetings, and spent virtually the whole of August — the crucial last moments before the fall shows debut — in Beijing, where Silverman was providing what Finke describes as "exclusive but asinine live reports" from the Olympics for his buddy Ryan Seacrest's radio show.

The only thing that's making him look good is the record of his executive VP, Teri Weinberg, who he brought with him from Reveille, the production company he sold for $60 million US. NBC is preparing to lose her before her contract expires next summer after disasters like the one where they were forced to cancel a contract with a group of writer/producers, which included Weinberg's boyfriend, compensating them with millions and letting them take back the shows developed on NBC's dime, a face-saving deal made after complaints that Weinberg was practically flaunting her conflict of interest.

Silverman is apparently blithely aware of how badly he's done and is reported to be preparing an early exit from the network with the rationale — once again, unique to Hollywood, obviously insane to the rest of the world — that he'll go out a hero if the fall shows miraculously go over big, but that he'd quit first rather than be fired if the more likely scenario plays out. As for the network, it is "hoping that Silverman jumps before he is pushed," according to Finke.

Silverman's boss, Jeff Zucker, the head of NBC Universal, was profiled in a recent issue of Portfolio magazine, a cover story that only mentioned Silverman in passing, mostly because the network only accounts for less than 5 per cent of the company's earnings — something to remember when you contemplate how networks like NBC seem to be running themselves into the ground.

As a fitting memorial, Silverman managed to score himself a cameo on the next season of Entourage, crowning a joke with an in-joke.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

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9/4/08	265	353	2	TVO	We Built This City		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		New Tricks (N)		Simon Schama's Power of Art		Agenda-Paikin
primetime	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Big Brother 10 (Live)		90210 "We're Not in Kansas Anymore; The Jet Set"				News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Rick Mercer	jPod (HDTV) (DVS)		Doc Zone: The Climb		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Ugly Betty (HDTV)		Glam God With Vivica A. Fox		Friends	Friends	News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	eTalk	Hollywood	CSI: Miami		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Flashpoint (DVS)		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Zoe Busiek: Wild Card		*Behind the Camera: Unauthorized Story of Diff'rent*				News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama été	Frontières	Esprit	Esprit	*Garde à vue* ★★★ (1981, Drame)			Jardins	C'est d'mes aff
	-	-	14	-	Cold Case "Bad Night"		News (N)		News (N)		2Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Becker	George Lopez	The A-Team (Part 1 of 2)		The A-Team (Part 2 of 2)		To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Big Brother 10 (Live)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Republican Convention		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	NFL Football Washington Redskins at New York Giants. (HDTV) (Live)						Republican Convention		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Ugly Betty (HDTV)		Grey's Anatomy		Republican Convention		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Robson Arms	TMZ (N)	Grey's Anatomy		America's Got Talent				News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	Kitchen Nightmares "Revisited: Gordon Returns" (N)				Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Goodnight Swt.	Republican National Convention Coverage of the proceedings in Minneapolis.						Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	90210 "We're Not in Kansas Anymore; The Jet Set"				CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Dr. Phil		WBZ News (N)	Jeopardy!	Frasier	Frasier	Cheers
	298	653	332	TLA	Reba	Reba	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	90210
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Politics	The Hour		CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		National
	500	500	33	CNN	(6) Republican National Convention Coverage of the Republican National Convention.								
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow & Company		On the Money		Asia Squawk Box		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	MLB Baseball Minnesota Twins at Toronto Blue Jays. From Rogers Centre in Toronto. (Live)						Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	NFL Football Washington Redskins at New York Giants. (HDTV) (Live)						SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	411	457	58	OLN	Ed's Up	Videos	Coltrane's Britain		Survivorman		Pilot Guides	Odyssey	Pilot Guides
	417	406	81	SC	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out		Pinks -- All Out (HDTV) (N)		Wrecked (N)	Wrecked	Pinks (HDTV)
family	551	542	25	YTV	H2O, Just Add	Home Improve.	Prank Patrol	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	George-Jungle	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	6teen		Total Drama	Futurama	The Critic (N)	Robot Chicken	Code Monkeys
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	The Suite Life	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Open House	Confidential	House
	570	580	29	MM	Instant Star	Born to Be	Muchmusic Countdown			Instant Star	Instant Star	Born to Be	Technical Diff.
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami		The First 48		The First 48 (HDTV)		Jacked: Theft	Jacked: Theft	Crime 360
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Melodrammore				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Back In	Canadian Idol Top three.		Canadian Idol	Where You At	I Want to Work for Diddy		Party of Five
	575	583	38	CMT	(6) Ultimate "Outlaws"		Karaoke Star "Halifax, NS" (N)		Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Karaoke Star
	616	521	39	SHO	Painkiller Jane "Pilot"		ReGenesis "Blackout"		Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Saving Grace (N)		House
	620	523	40	BVO	Books-Film	In the Mind ...	The Letters	*Water* ★★★ (2005, Drama) Seema Biswas, Lisa Ray, John Abraham.					Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	End of Leash	ET Canada	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Last 10	Bulging Brides	The Biggest Loser		Rich Poor
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Singled Out"		Lost Worlds		The Perfect Weapon		NCIS "Singled Out"		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Reality Bites	Comedy Inc.	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes on Homes Attic.		The Fix	Disaster DIY	Junk Brothers	The Big Flip	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Friends	Friends	*Alfie* ★★ (2004, Comedy-Drama) Jude Law, Omar Epps.				Seinfeld
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	Black Carpet	*Three Can Play That Game* (2008, Romance-Comedy)				Comic View	Comic View	*Three Play*
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate SG-1 (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		*Weird Science* ★★ (1985, Fantasy) Kelly LeBrock.				Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Busted	After	Canada's Next Top Model		The Hills	Super Sweet	Exiled	MTV Cribs	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210		Make or Break	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier	Family Guy
	603	561	56	FOOD	Boy Grill	Licence to Grill	Restaurant Makeover		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Secret Life of	Ace of Cakes
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Fun-Funeral	Keeping Up	*Murder at the Gallop* ★★★ (1963, Mystery), Robert Morley				Emily-Moon
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	Hollywood	TMZ (N)	eTalk	Katie & Peter: Next Chapter		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		eTalk
	553	546	65	TRE	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Nght Grdn	Bucket-Dinos	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
	115	711	101	TVA	La Fièvre de la danse (SC)		Dominique Michel		La Fécondation in vitro		TVA 22 heures	Sucré-salé	*Presque*
	126	730	102	RDI	RDI en direct sur l'actualité		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		Élections prés	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	CLT	Judging Amy		Last Chapter (Part 3 of 3)				Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy
	300	601	301	M1	(7:15) *The End of Silence* (2006, Drama)				*Goya's Ghosts* ★★ (2006, Historical Drama)				*Music & Lyrics*
	305	612	306	PIX	(5:20) *Heaven's Gate* ★★ (1980, Western)				*The Matrix* ★★★ (1999, Science Fiction) Keanu Reeves.				

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critics'corner

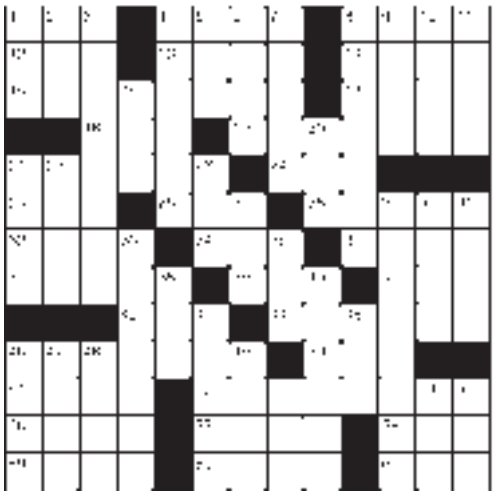
NFL Football
Whose dreams of an undefeated season can the New York Giants ruin this season? Well, for starters, the Washington Redskins', if the Super Bowl champs have their way with their NFL East rival in tonight's season-opener at Giants Stadium, where 80,000 raucous fans await Eli Manning and his mates. Preseason notwithstanding, it's the Jints' first official appearance at home since bursting New England's perfect bubble in the Super Bowl. 7 PM on TSN

jPod
Steve (Colin Cunningham) is addicted to heroin and thinks it's great! Unfortunately, his friends don't agree; they're not liking his new personality very much in "The Betty and Veronica Syndrome." Ethan (David Kopp) has his own problems when he becomes interested in two women — who happen to be friends with each other. No, Ethan, no. 8 PM on CBC

Beer and basketball?

Actor Sam Rockwell has revealed he will be starring as an alcoholic coach in a new movie. "It's a dramatic film about an alcoholic basketball coach and this girls' high school basketball team," he says. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Take Five



Crossword down

1 Neg. opp.
2 Chinese path
3 Developing an attachment?
4 Usage
5 Lennon's lady
6 Techno-datebooks
7 Sleep
8 Germ-free
9 Attempt
10 Mexican money
11 Charon's river
16 Potent stick
20 "— Wiedersehen"
21 Nonsense
22 Sandwich cookie
23 Young seal
27 Obtain
29 Kept tabs on
30 Takeout request
31 Booty
33 Some go for the gold
35 Roscoe
38 Bill's partner
40 1974 Dolly Parton hit
43 Rolling Stones classic
45 Shell-game need
46 Carvey or Delany
47 The yoke's on them
48 Pleased
49 A long time
53 "Smoking or —?"
54 Rd.
55 Evergreen type

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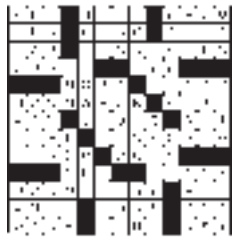
Crossword across

1 Bake sale org.
4 TV reality series
8 Venomous vipers
12 Lummox
13 Destroy
14 Cancel a dele
15 Flattery
17 Uncomplicated
18 Passbook abbr.
19 Orator's place
21 Redeemable item of yore
24 Trench
25 Swiss canton
26 Oktoberfest souvenir
28 Jabbers?
32 Give temporarily
34 "Married ... With Children" mother
36 Eats
37 Reason
39 — Mahal
41 Khan title
42 Tibetan gazelle
44 Big cheese
46 "Confounded!"
50 Zodiac cat
51 Wheelbase terminus
52 Never to return
56 Approach
57 Privy to
58 Previous night
59 "No ifs, —, or buts"
60 Slave to crosswords?
61 Morning moisture

previous day's answer



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A long chat leads to the revelation of feelings. Discord takes up precious time tonight. Take care around sharp objects.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Play games with worthy opponents. Add a dash of fantasy to a dull afternoon. A friend is leading a life of quiet desperation.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Prepare for general misunderstandings. You'll race around trying to jog your memory. You could get lost on the way home.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You and a friend have to agree to disagree. You have the power to defuse a tense situation. Do some serious research on an overbearing person.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Protest against those who are unappreciative of your efforts. You'll suddenly get a second chance. Someone throws you a curveball at work.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Stay centred and refuse to become cynical. Tone down your opinions before it's too late. You'll take a stroll down memory lane.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Moping is not your style. Instruct others on the possibilities of magical goal achievement. Something is causing emotional turmoil in a friend.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
People tend towards intellectual intensity. A former antagonist magically reappears. Do menial chores and expect things to return to normal.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Witnessing a traffic accident disturbs someone. You receive confirmation of awaited plans. Trust yourself when it comes to bureaucracy.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
You'll struggle not to lose your temper. Give in to the pressure of thinking of others first. Good work leads to self-confidence and financial rewards.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Take steps to prove someone wrong. You produce one clever idea after another. Don't let petty irritations develop into major headaches.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
An absurd nickname is pinned on you. Do not engage in argumentative behaviour. Your normally overactive brain is somewhat sluggish.

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Sudoku

		6					2	
3	2						6	8
		1	7			9	4	
8				1	4		7	
				8				
	9		5	6				4
	4	7			3	1		
2	3						9	7
	1					2		

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

6	7	2	9	3	5	8	4	1
1	8	5	6	4	7	3	9	2
4	9	3	1	8	2	6	5	7
2	6	9	4	5	8	1	7	3
7	5	1	2	9	3	4	8	6
8	3	4	7	6	1	5	2	9
9	1	8	5	7	6	2	3	4
5	2	7	3	1	4	9	6	8
3	4	6	8	2	9	7	1	5

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:

Under 13. . . . . Genius
13-17 . . . . . Scholar
17-21. . . . . Smart
21-25. . . . . Not bad
25+ . . . . . Keep practising

more games metronews.ca

Toronto weather

Afternoon	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Variable. 24°	Partly clear. 18°	40% Showers. 25°/18°	Partly cloudy. 24°/14°	Mainly sunny. 22°/14°

The Weather Network
theweathernetwork.com

Temperature
Normals
High: 24.7°
Low: 12.3°

Records
High: 35.6°/1953
Low: 2.2°/1946

Sunrise: 6:46 a.m.
Sunset: 7:47 p.m.
Moonrise: 12:07 p.m.
Moonset: 9:36 p.m.

TWN incorporates MSC data

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Hugh steps out with ex-model
Actor Hugh Grant has sparked rumours he is dating former model Catherine Fuller after the pair was photographed enjoying a day out in New York's Hamptons. IMDB.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Mischa uncovers rehab stint

PEOPLE Actress Mischa Barton has revealed she secretly checked into rehab after her drunk driving arrest last year, imdb.com reports.

The former The O.C. star was arrested on suspicion of DUI in December and was sentenced to 36 months on probation, alcohol education classes and a fine after pleading guilty to charges this spring.

Now Barton has revealed she punished herself over the lapse in judgment by locking herself up at an unnamed rehab clinic in a bid to prove to herself and the authorities she was not a drunk.

"I wanted to prove to the court that I would take it completely seriously, so I went to rehab to prove I was sober," she tells Marie Claire's U.K. edition. "It really helped in getting the more serious aspects of my case dropped because, you know, that's what they want to hear; you're not an alcoholic and you don't have a problem. So I did it in the most low-key way possible — I didn't make a fuss about it and I didn't tell a lot of my friends. I just did the program and got through it."

Barton is still angry with herself for driving while over the limit.

"The thing is, I hate drunk drivers," she says. "Living in L.A., I can't stand them, and that's why I was so disappointed in myself. It's so not worth it when you put other lives at risk."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Kate lauds breakup

RELATIONSHIPS Kate Hudson says her divorce from Chris Robinson was the "best thing that ever happened" to her, female-first.co.uk reports.

The actress, who has a four-year-old son with the Black Crowes front man, insists the couple's relationship has improved dramatically since their legal separation in October 2007.

"Look — Chris and I are still basically living together. We've figured it out. I mean, obviously, nothing's perfect, but I could never look at our divorce as a mistake. If anything, it's the best thing that ever happened to us," Hudson tells Cosmopolitan magazine.

Hudson also revealed she doesn't regret forsaking her partying years to have a child.

"Am I going to look back and say, 'God, I wish I could have gone to that concert?' I'd rather be listening to my son sing songs. I'd rather be watching him sleep," she says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Fame affects young Emma

PEOPLE Harry Potter actress Emma Watson struggled with growing up in the public spotlight, imdb.com reports.

The 18-year-old star appeared in the first Harry Potter movie as a nine-year-old child and has had to grow up in front of legions of adoring fans.

"I lived a period of my life that is full of lessons and changes under the spotlight," she says. "Some days I wish my life were simpler but the rest of the time I feel like the luckiest girl in the world."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Jonas may have inspired song

RELATIONSHIPS So who's the guy singer/actress Miley Cyrus is referring to in her song 7 Things?

"The necklace she's wearing in the video is the necklace (the boy) gave her," the video's director, Brett Ratner, says. "She's wearing his diabetes or medical necklace."

Singer Nick Jonas, who split with Cyrus in late 2007 after two years of dating, has Type 1 diabetes and is a spokesperson for awareness of the disease.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

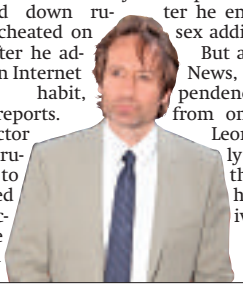
David pans cheat talk

PEOPLE David Duchovny has played down rumours he cheated on his wife after he admitted to an Internet porn habit, imdb.com reports.

The actor was rumoured to have strayed from his actress wife Tea Leoni in reports that emerged after he entered rehab for sex addiction last week.

But according to Fox News, Duchovny's dependency stemmed from online porn, and Leoni has reportedly been aware of the problem and has been supportive, says a source.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Partying leaves Paris 'empty'

PEOPLE Hotel heiress Paris Hilton is curbing her party lifestyle because it leaves her feeling "empty," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

"I don't want to go to clubs now," she says. "I was caught up in a lifestyle that seemed fun at the time, but ultimately left me feeling very empty."

She attributes her reformed character to her boyfriend, rocker Benji Madden.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

A few days ago, I opined in this very column that the story about **David Duchovny** seeking help for sex addiction was nothing but a publicity ploy meant to coincide with the debut of Season 2 of Californication, in which Duchovny plays, of all things, a sex addict.

The latest revelation, that his problem relates to his alleged compulsive consumption of Internet porn, makes me both reach for my grab-bag of Grade 7 masturbation jokes and admit upon careful reflection that I was wrong.

Consider Duchovny's previous roles and a pattern emerges. In The X-Files, his character had a huge pornography collection. In The Red Shoe Diaries, he was a man who drifts each episode into a different, seedy coupling. In The Rapture, he was a swinger married to Mimi Rogers.

So, I take it back. David Duchovny's quest for help with sex addiction isn't a cynical publicity ploy for his series. He's just a strange guy who may have been taught to imagine the audience in its underwear many years ago and has never looked back.

The truth is out there. David Duchovny's arm is really sore. I want to believe.

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